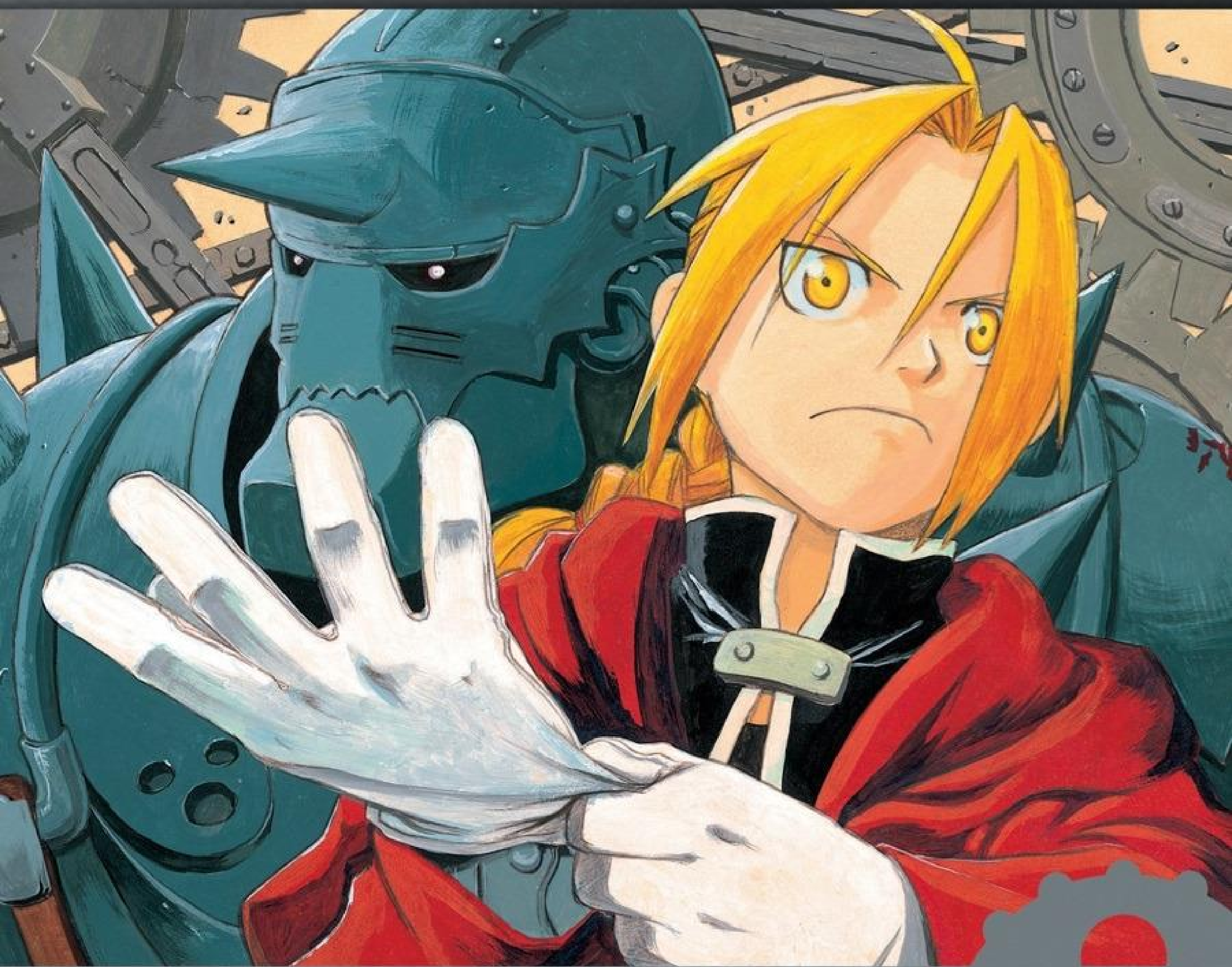


FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

TM



STORY AND ART BY
HIROMU ARAKAWA

1



I love B movies. I love the way they make me think "What the hell is this?! That's crazy!" yet still draw me in so that I watch the whole thing. I really like that feeling, and I like to bring a little of that kind of over-the-top flavor into my own manga. That was the initial idea that gave birth to volume 1 of this alchemy manga. Thank you for picking it up. As you read it, please criticize it by saying to yourself "What kind of alchemy is that?!"

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2002



Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga **Stray Dog**. Her series **Fullmetal Alchemist** debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology **Shonen Gangan**.



FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

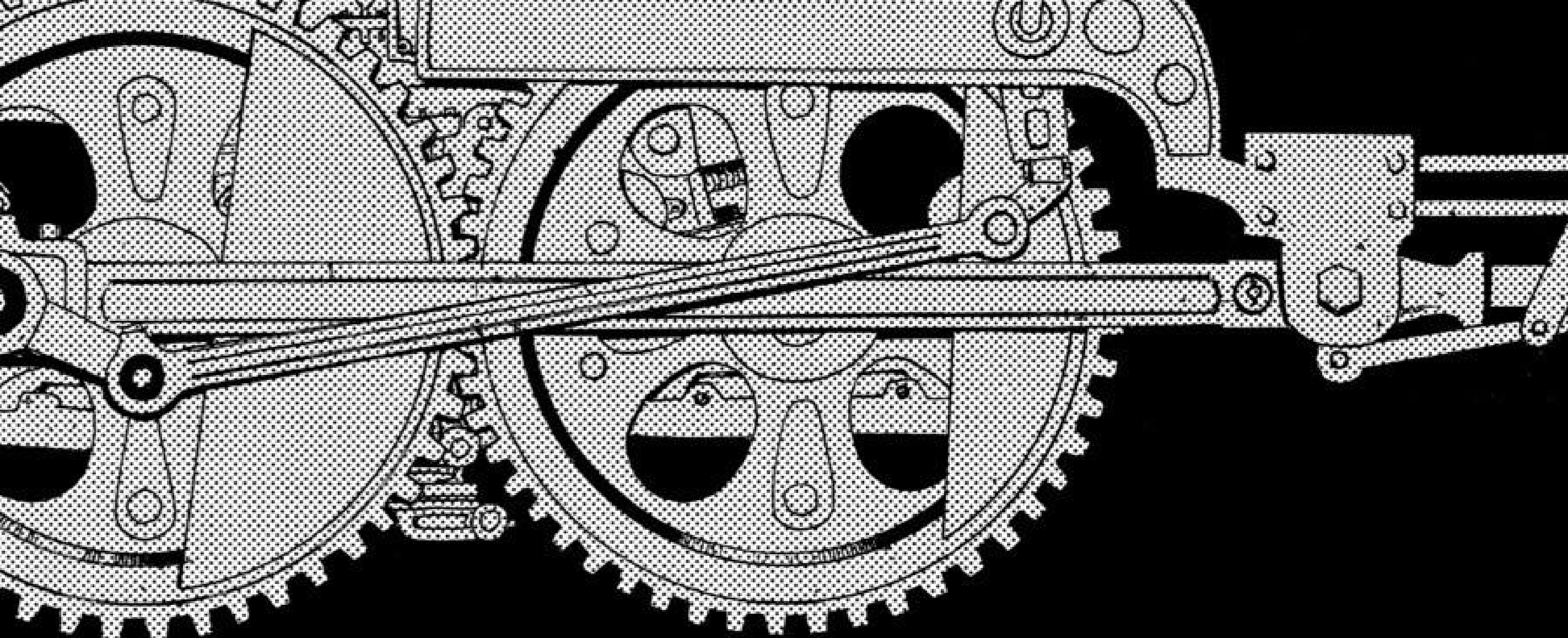


金の錬金術師
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

1

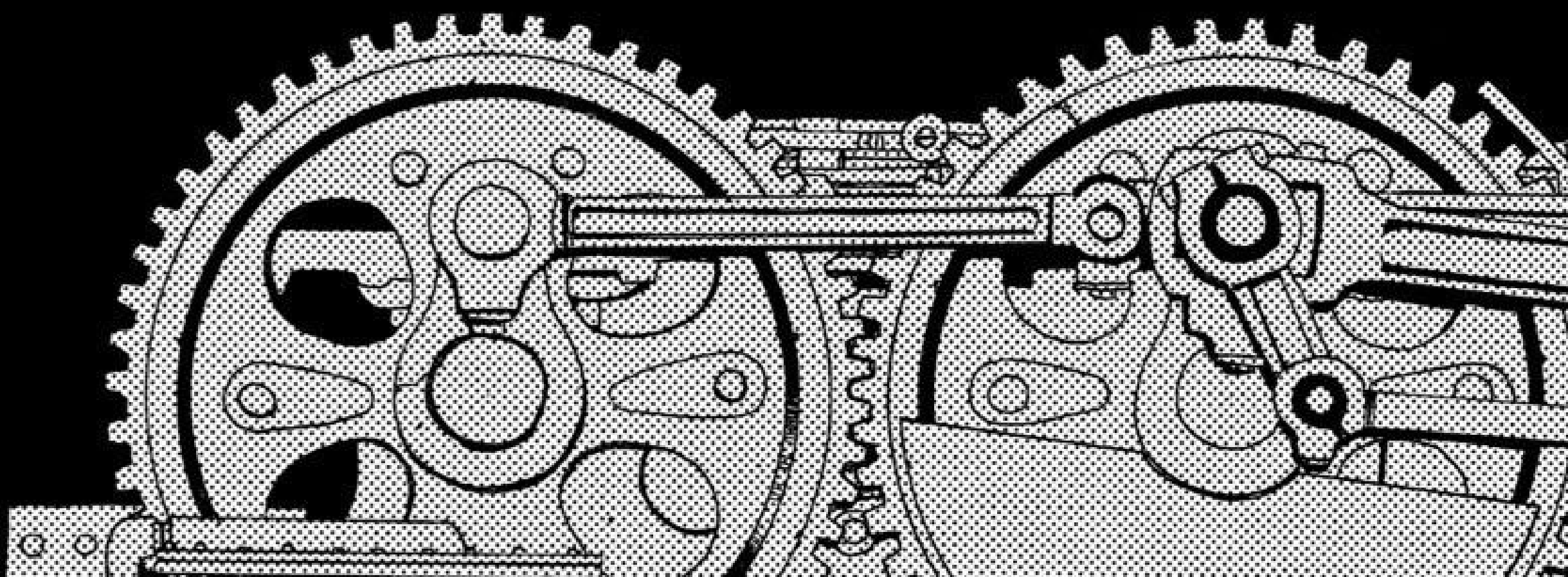
HIROMU ARAKAWA

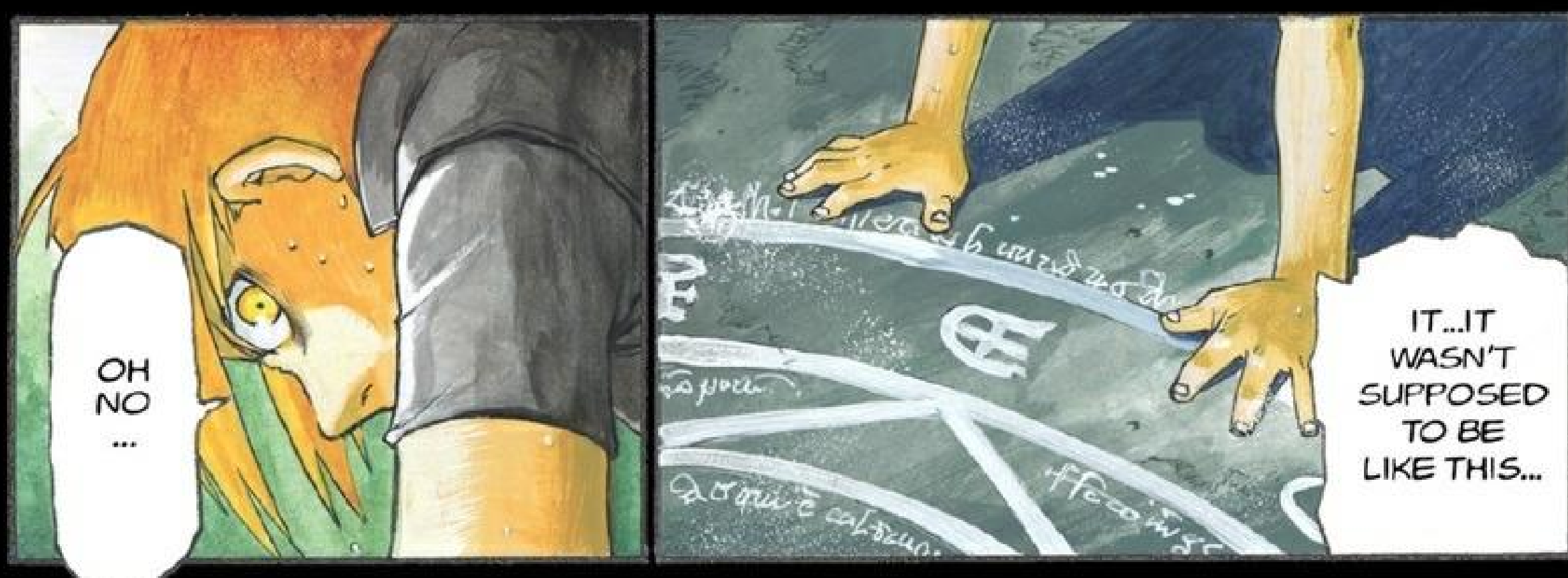
荒川弘



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TEACHINGS THAT DO NOT SPEAK OF PAIN HAVE NO MEANING...



...BECAUSE HUMANKIND CANNOT GAIN ANYTHING WITHOUT FIRST GIVING SOMETHING IN RETURN.



Chapter 1: The Two Alchemists



FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

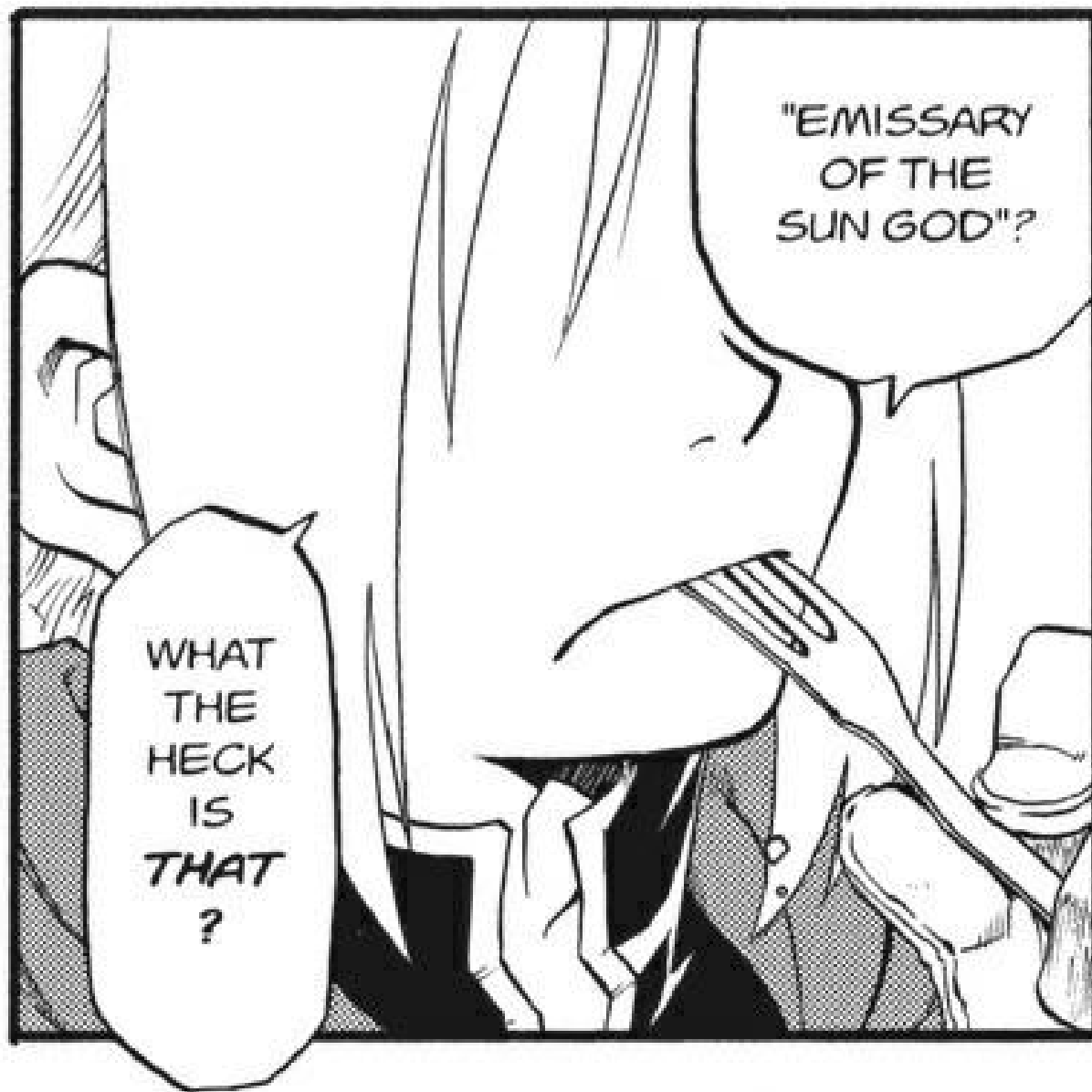
THE SUN
GOD LETO
WILL
ILLUMINATE
THY PATH.

BEHOLD! THE
LORD HATH
DESCENDED FROM
HIS HEAVENLY
THRONE
TO SAVE THEE
FROM ALL
THY SINS.

THERE
IS NO
SALVATION
WITHOUT
PRAYER
AND
FAITH.

CHILDREN
OF GOD
WHO DWELL
ON THE
EARTH...





"EMISSARY OF THE SUN GOD"?

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?



FOR I AM THY FATHER...
I AM THE EMISSARY OF THE SUN GOD...

...A RELIGIOUS BROADCAST ON THE RADIO?



ACTUALLY, I WAS GOING TO ASK THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU TWO...



SPEW

ARE YOU GUYS STREET PERFORMERS OR SOMETHING?



WELL...
I MEAN...
WHAT ELSE
COULD
YOU BE...?

HEY, WAIT A
MINUTE, POPS!
WHAT IS IT
ABOUT US
THAT MAKES
YOU THINK THAT
WE'RE STREET
PERFORMERS!?

IT'S
HUGE

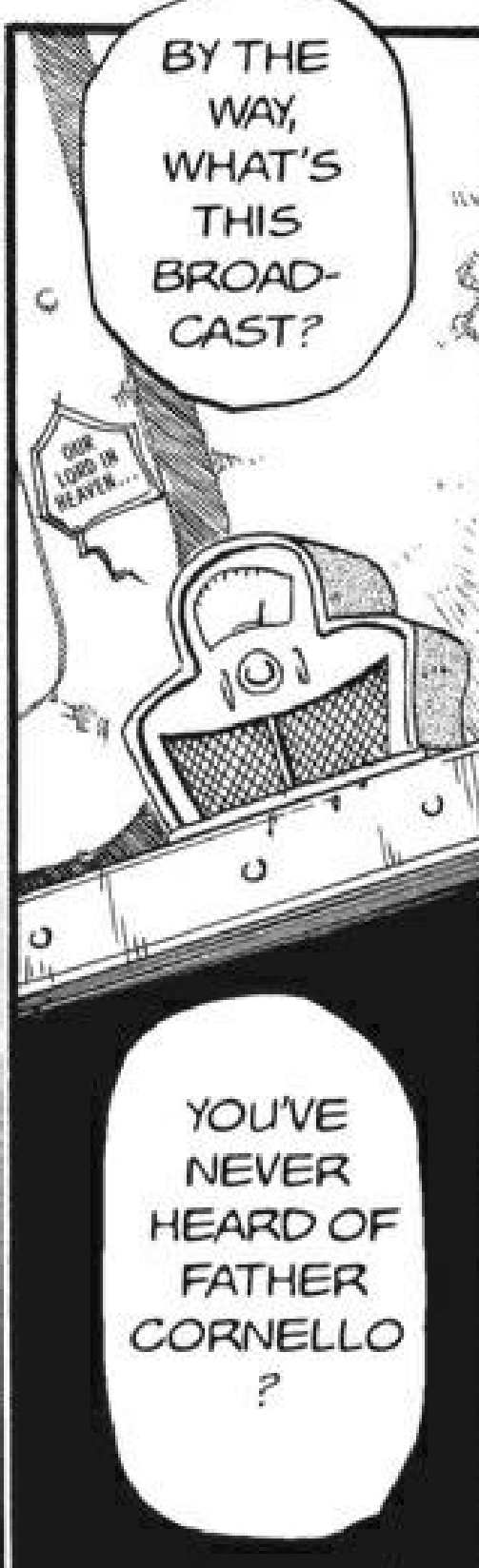
WOWWWW

LOOK AT HIS
ARMOR!



...WHO?

FATHER
CORNELLO,
THE
SUN GOD
LETO'S
EMISSARY!



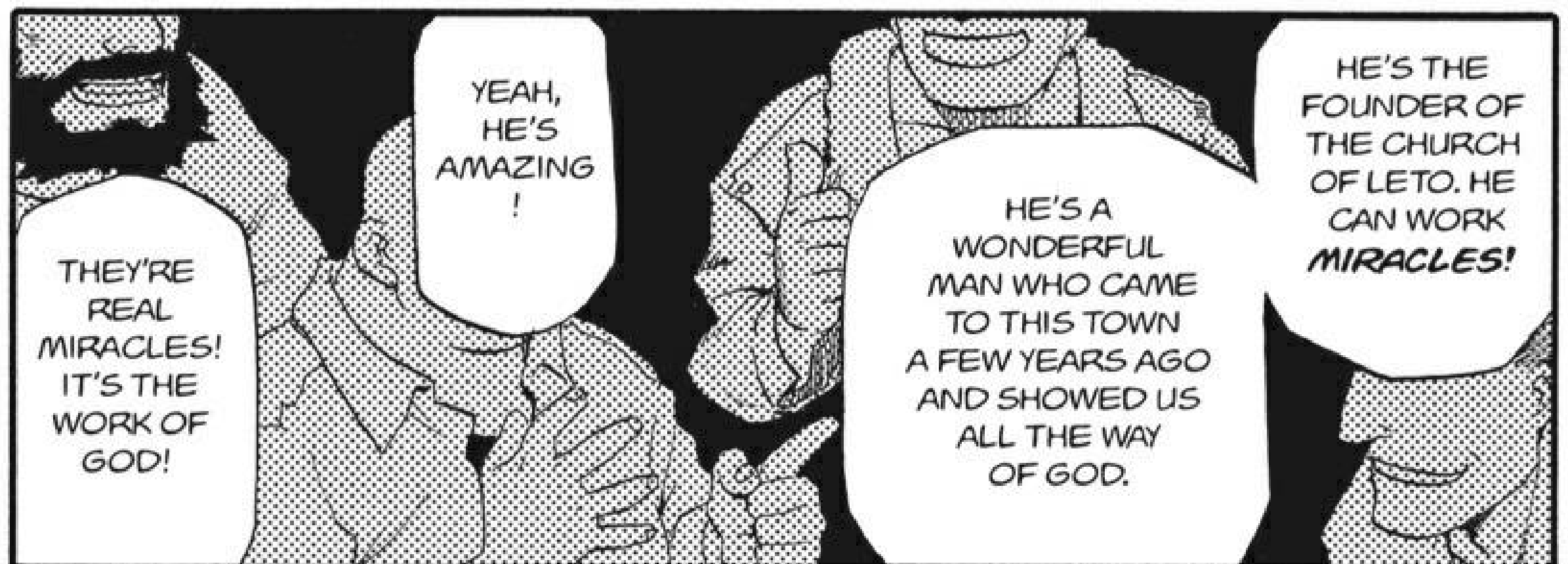
BY THE
WAY,
WHAT'S
THIS
BROAD-
CAST?

YOU'VE
NEVER
HEARD OF
FATHER
CORNELLO
?



I HAVEN'T
SEEN
YOUR
FACES
AROUND
HERE
BEFORE.
ON A
TRIP
?

UH HUH.
WE'RE
TRYING
TO TRACK
SOME-
THING
DOWN.

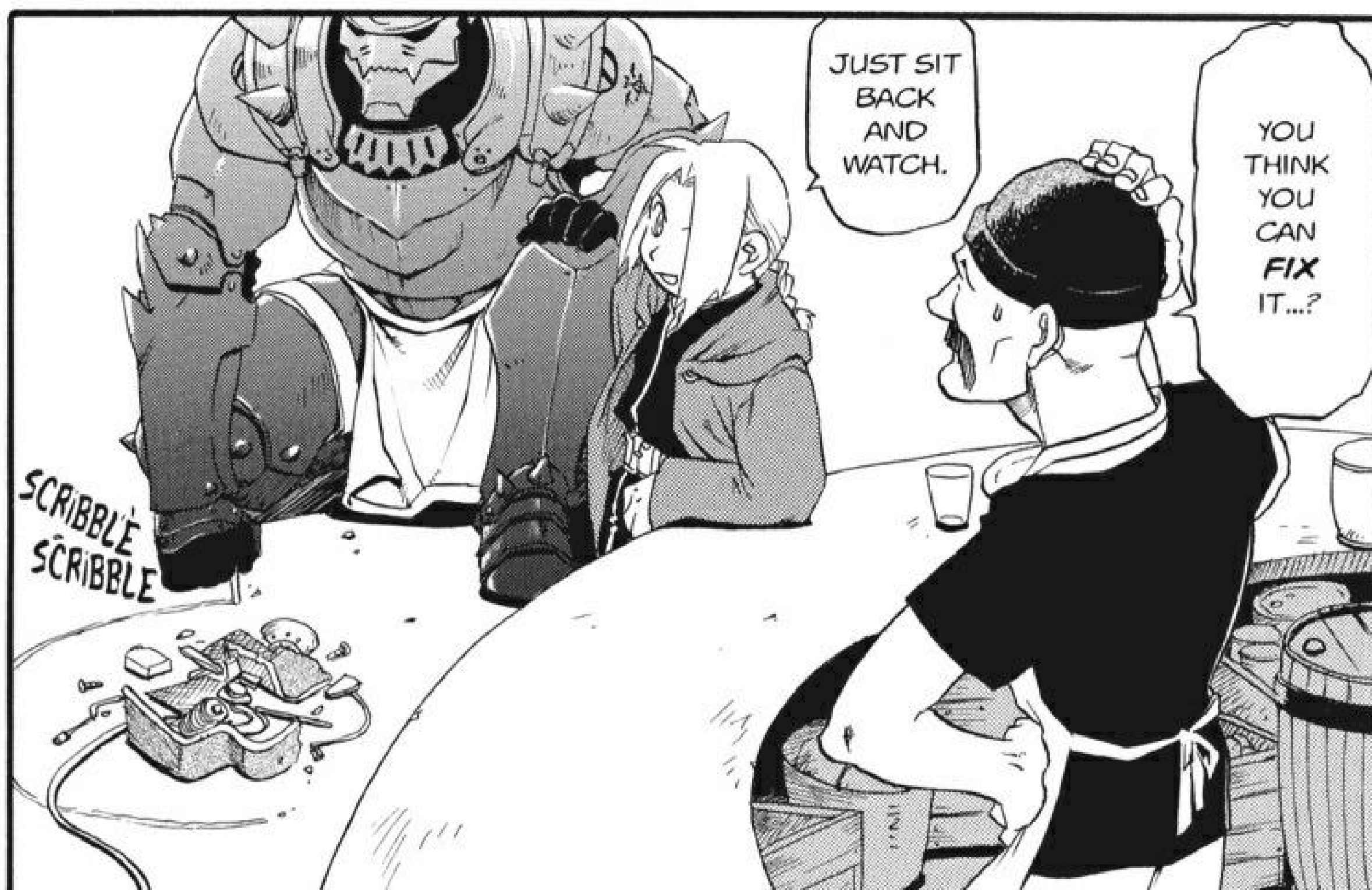


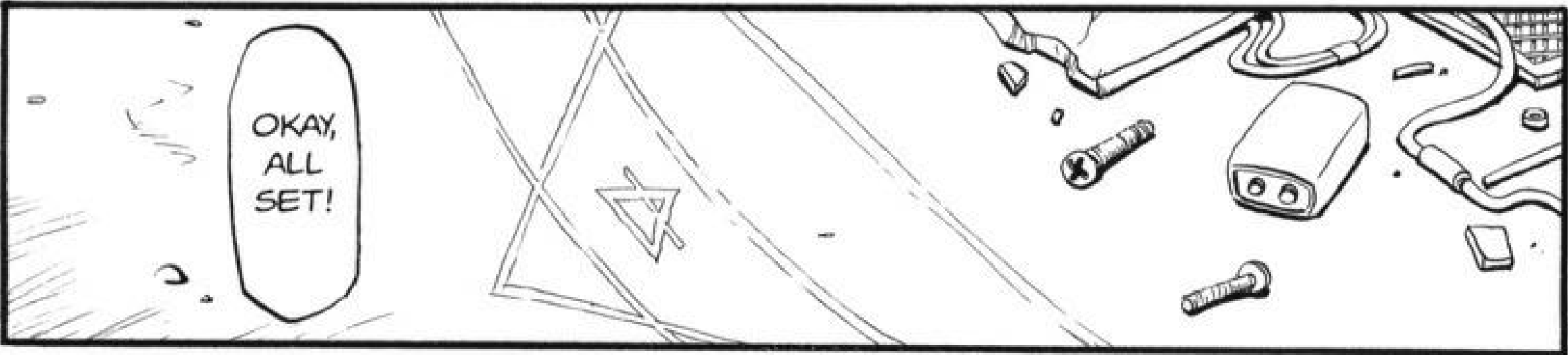
THEY'RE
REAL
MIRACLES!
IT'S THE
WORK OF
GOD!

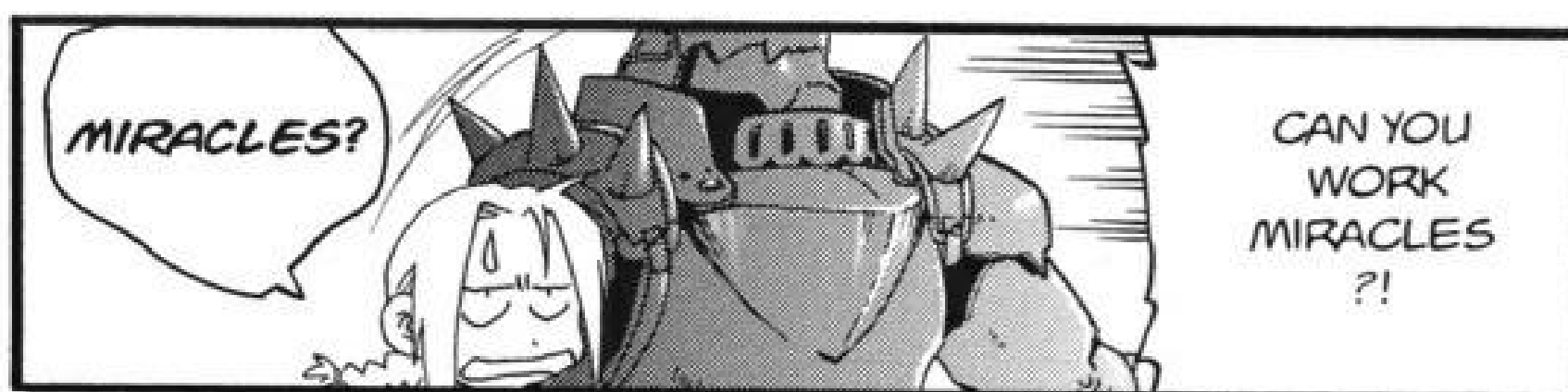
YEAH,
HE'S
AMAZING
!

HE'S A
WONDERFUL
MAN WHO CAME
TO THIS TOWN
A FEW YEARS AGO
AND SHOWED US
ALL THE WAY
OF GOD.

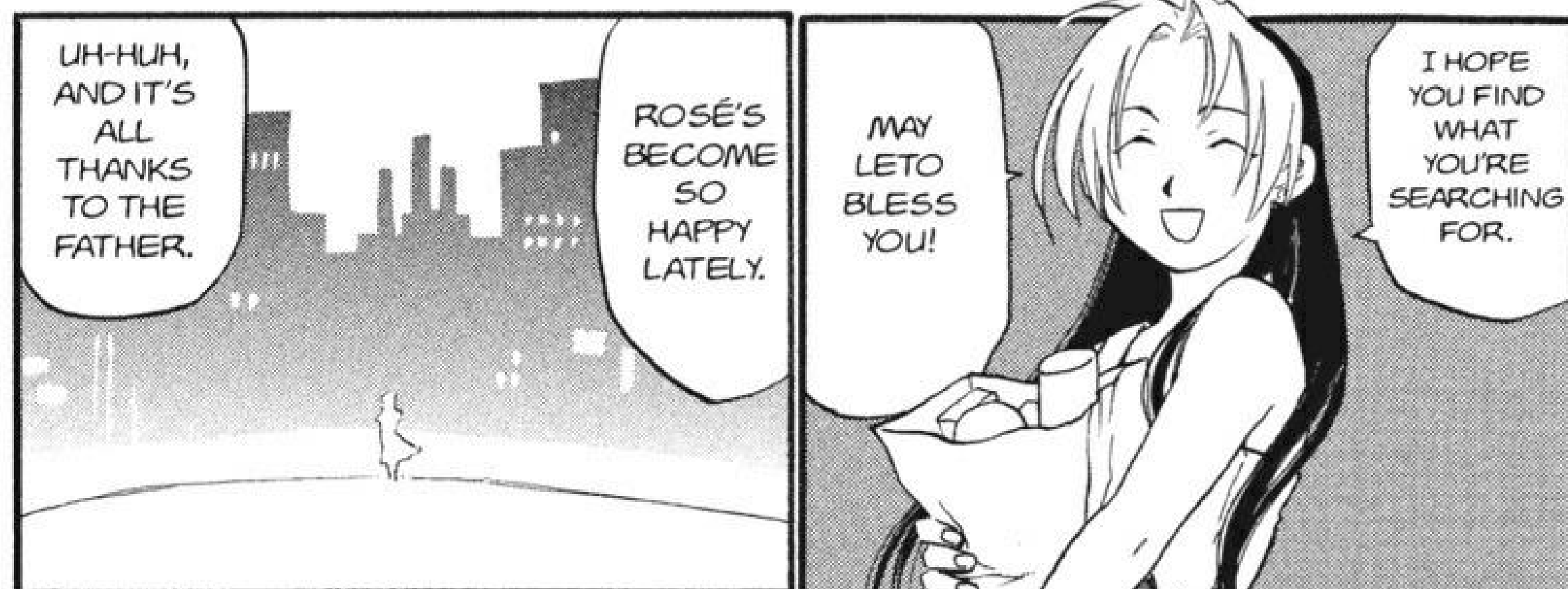
HE'S THE
FOUNDER OF
THE CHURCH
OF LETO. HE
CAN WORK
MIRACLES!



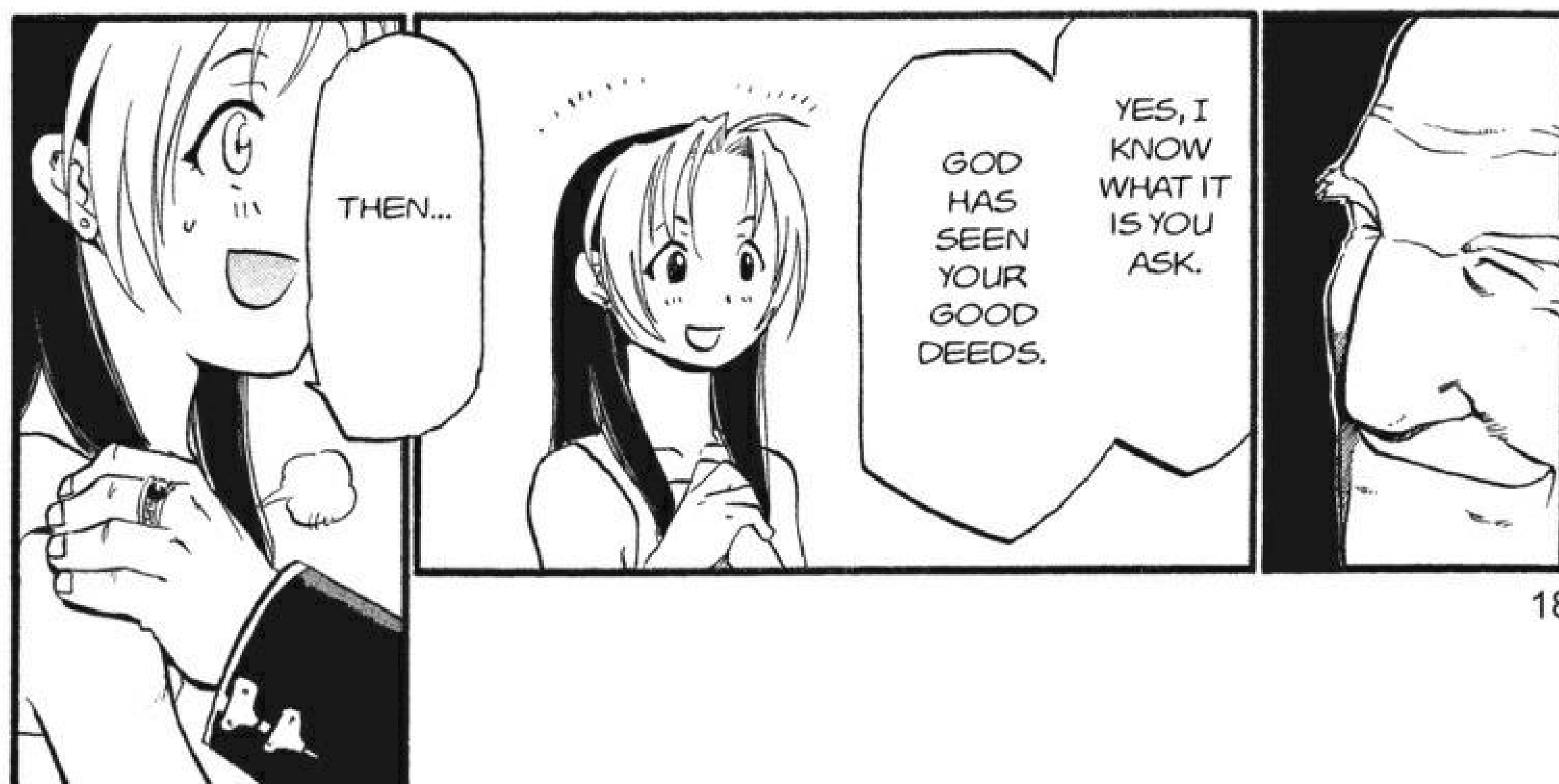
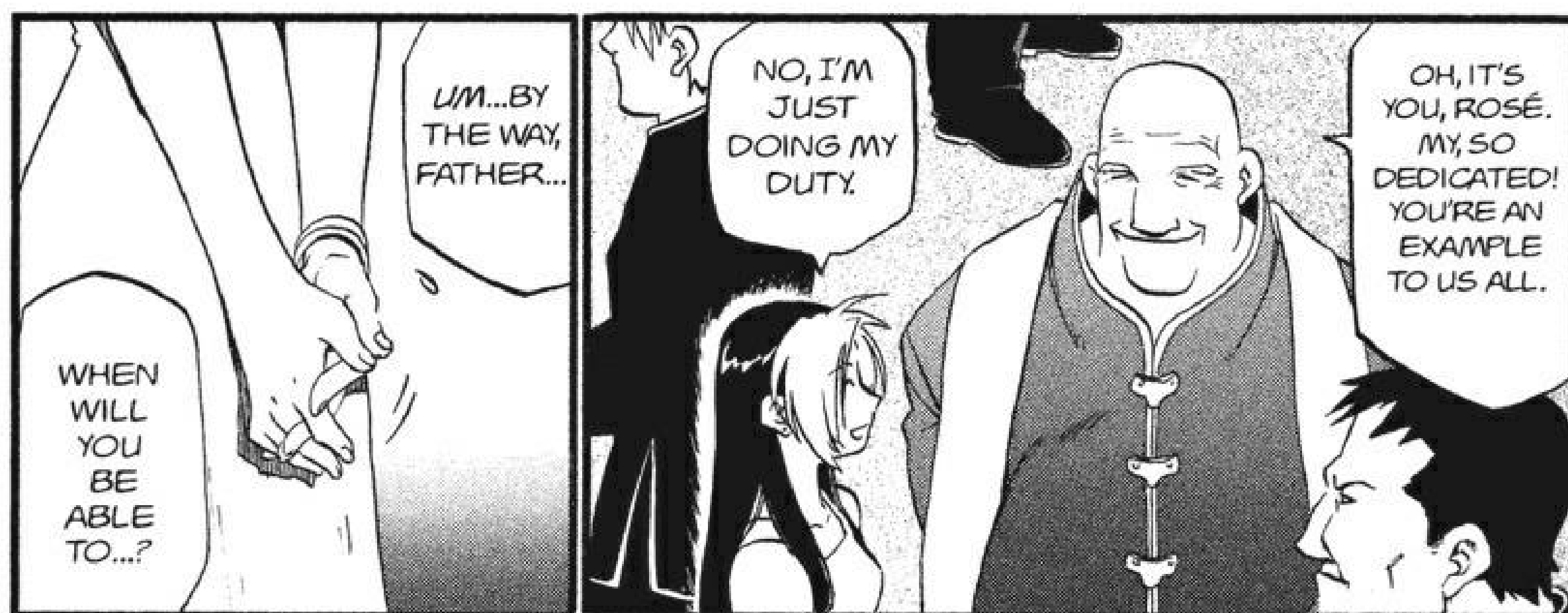












YOU UNDER-
STAND,
DON'T
YOU?



BUT IT
IS NOT
YET *TIME*,
ROSÉ.



YOU'RE
RIGHT...

NOT
YET...

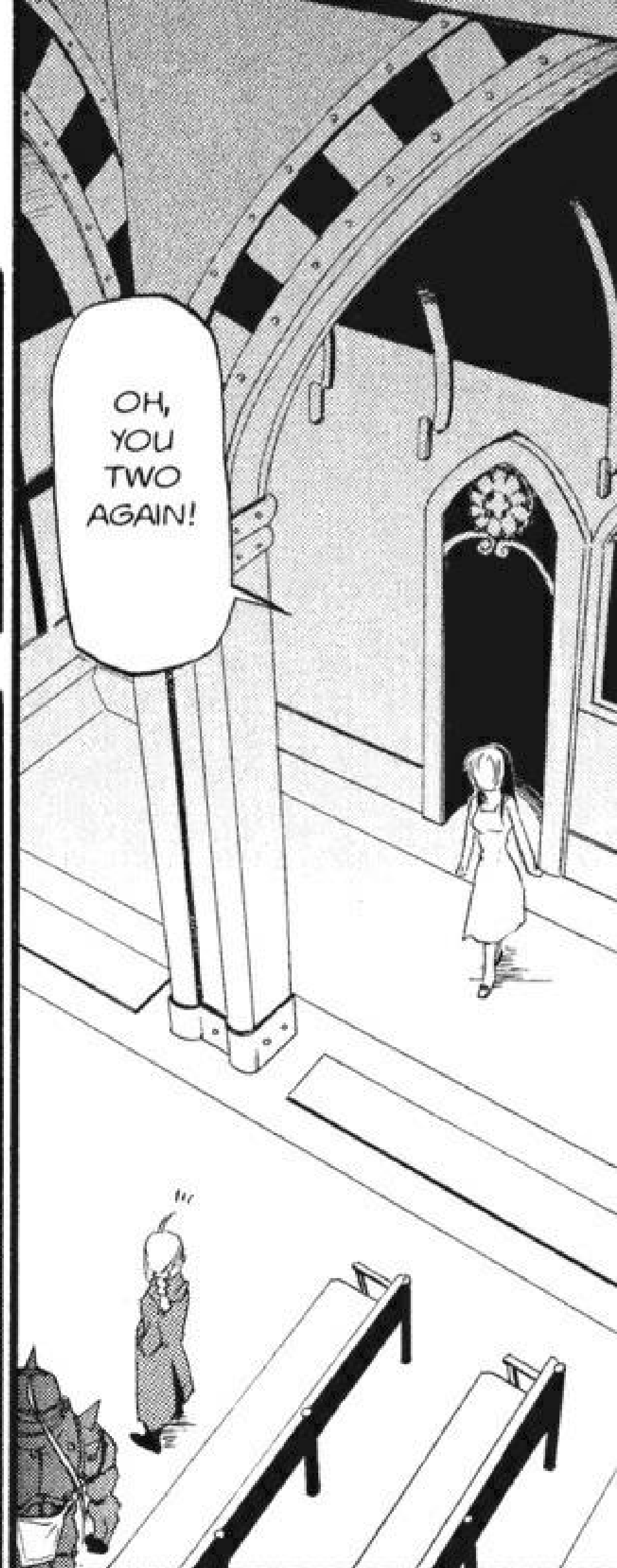
...YES,
FATHER.



HMM?



THAT'S
A GOOD
GIRL,
ROSÉ.





MODERN
SCIENCE KNOWS
ALL OF THIS, BUT
THERE HAS NEVER
BEEN A SINGLE
EXAMPLE OF
SUCCESSFUL
HUMAN
TRANSMUT-
ATION.

THAT'S
THE TOTAL
CHEMICAL
MAKEUP
OF THE
AVERAGE
ADULT
BODY.

WATER: 35 LITERS.
CARBON: 20 KG.
AMMONIA: 4 LITERS.
LIME: 1.5 KG.

PHOSPHORUS: 800 G.
SALT: 250 G. SALT PETER:
100 G. SULFUR: 80 G.
FLUORINE: 7.5 G. IRON: 5 G.
SILICON: 3 G. AND 15 OTHER
ELEMENTS IN SMALL
QUANTITIES...



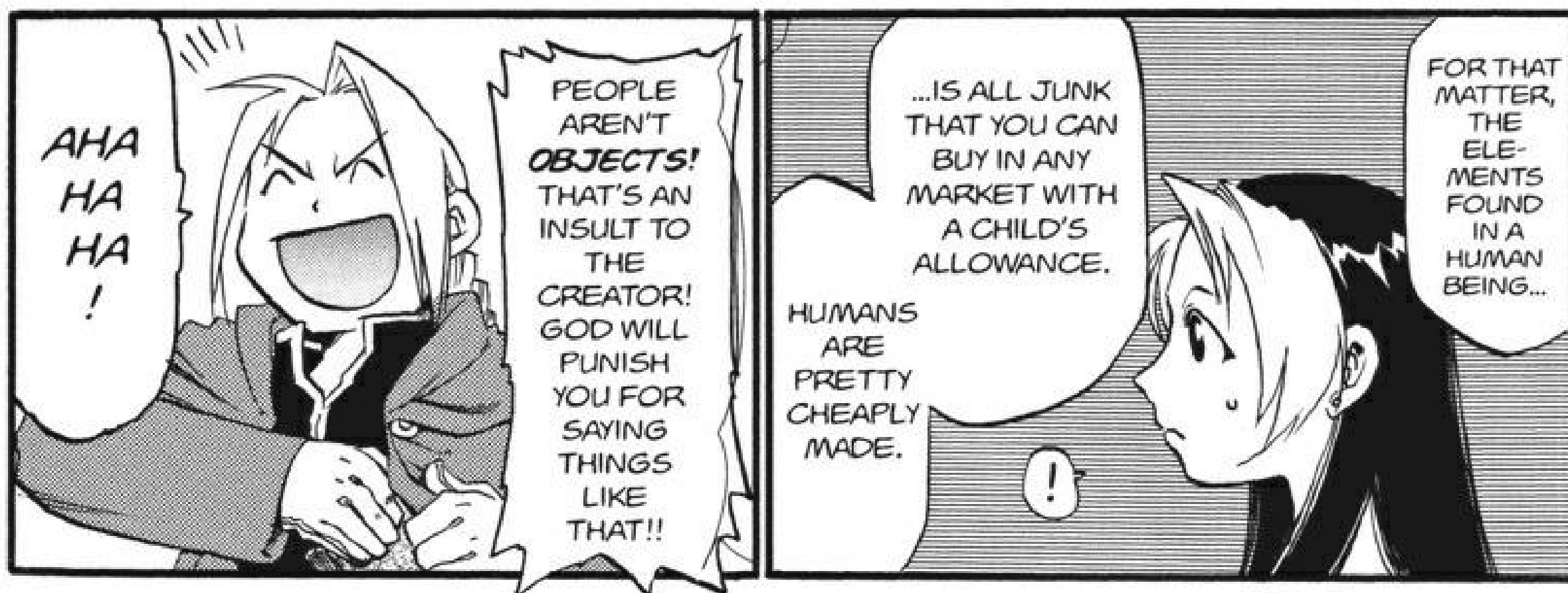
SCIENTISTS
HAVE BEEN TRYING
TO FIND IT FOR
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS, POURING
TONS OF MONEY
INTO RESEARCH,
AND TO THIS
DAY THEY DON'T
HAVE A THEORY.

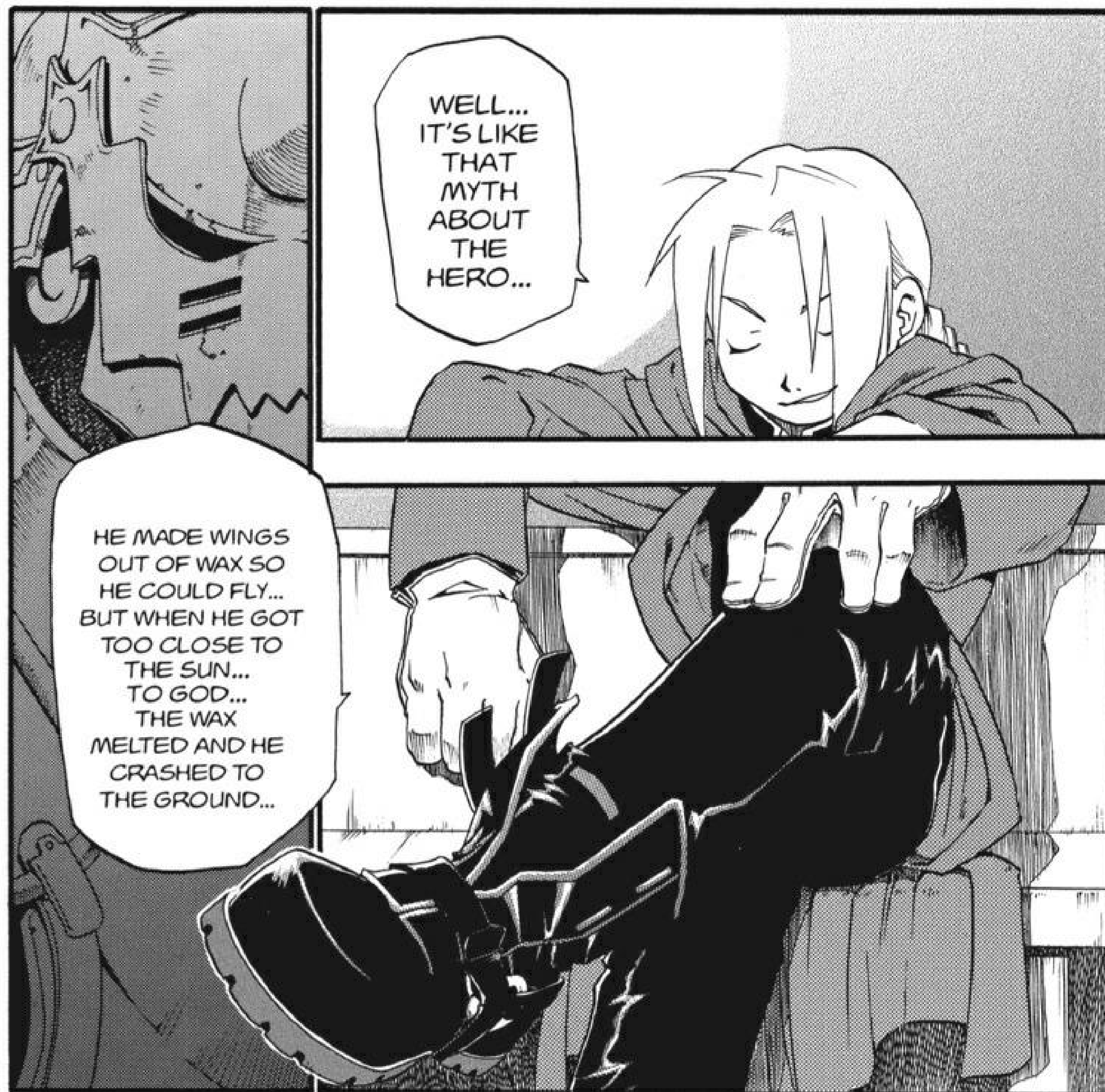
IT'S LIKE
THERE'S
SOME
**MISSING
INGRE-
DIENT...**

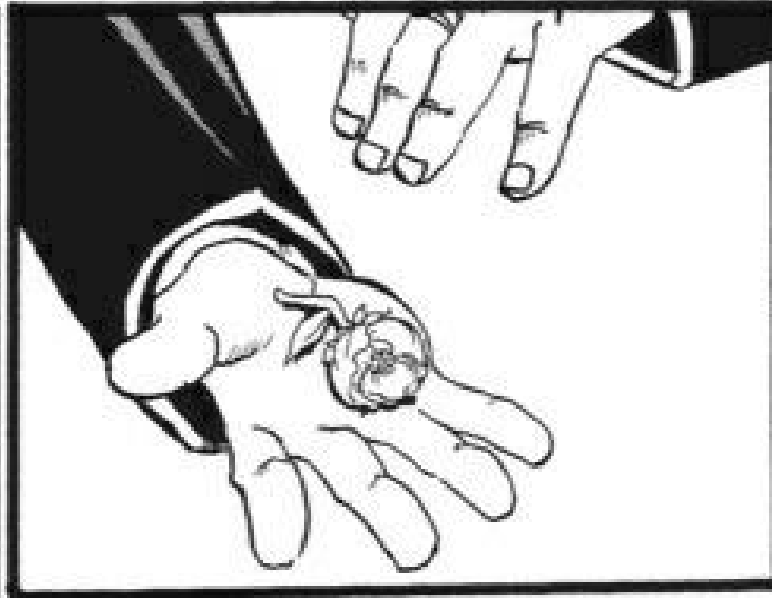
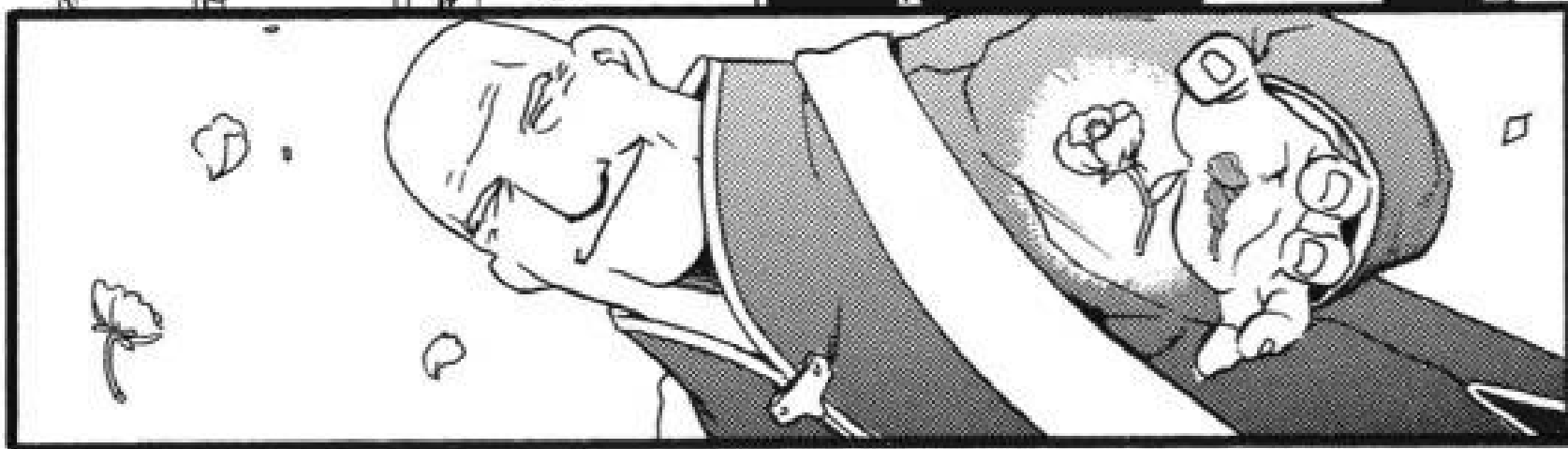
...HUH?

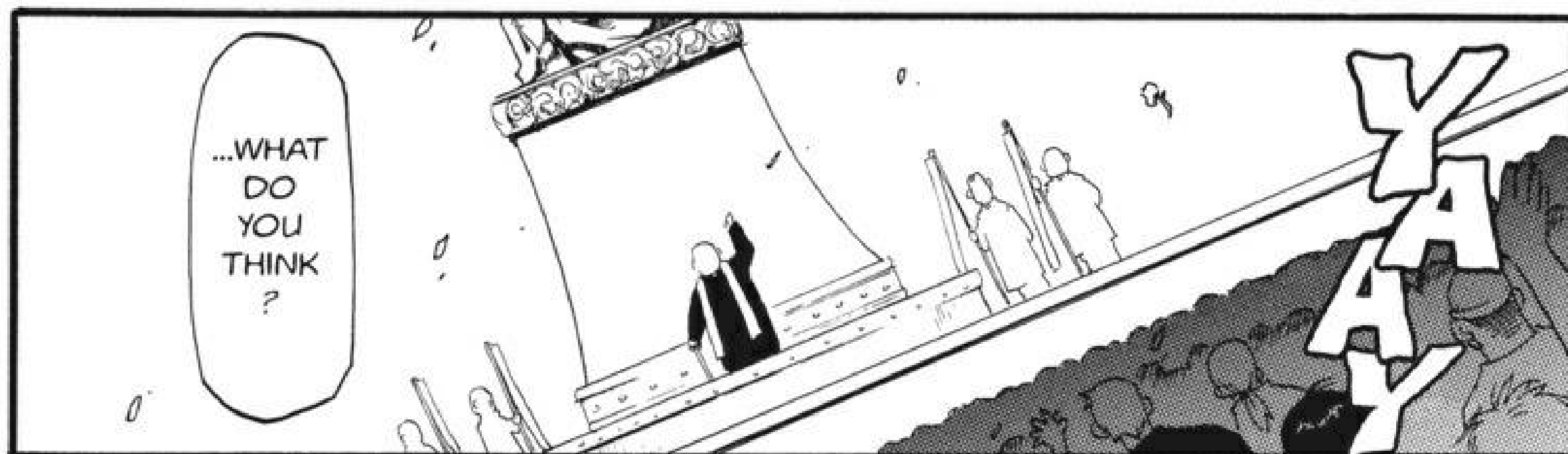


THEY SAY SCIENCE
IS A LOST CAUSE,
BUT I THINK IT'S
BETTER THAN SITTING
AROUND PRAYING
AND WAITING FOR
SOMETHING TO
HAPPEN.









...BUT IN
REALITY
THERE
ARE
CERTAIN
CONCRETE
LAWS.



MOST PEOPLE
THINK THAT
ALCHEMY CAN
DO ANYTHING
AND CREATE
WHATEVER YOU
WANT...

A SUBSTANCE
CAN ONLY BE
CREATED FROM
THE SAME TYPE
OF SUBSTANCE.
FOR EXAMPLE,
IF SOME-
THING'S MOSTLY
WATER, YOU CAN
ONLY USE IT TO
MAKE OTHER
THINGS WITH THE
ATTRIBUTES
OF WATER.

UM...
LET
ME
TRY...



I GUESS
THE TWO
BIG
CONCEPTS
ARE "THE
LAW OF
CONSER-
VATION
OF MASS"
AND "THE
LAW OF
NATURAL
PROVI-
DENCE."

BUT THAT
OLD GUY IS
MAKING TOO
MUCH OUT OF
TOO LITTLE...
ALCHEMY-
WISE, THAT'S
BREAKING
THE LAW.

SEE? SO
WHY DON'T
YOU TWO
JUST HAVE
FAITH THAT
IT'S A
MIRACLE
ALREADY
?!

THAT MEANS
THAT TO
OBTAIN
SOMETHING,
SOMETHING
OF
EQUAL VALUE
MUST BE
LOST.

IN OTHER
WORDS, THE
BASICS OF
ALCHEMY
IS THE
"EQUIVALENT
EXCHANGE"
!



ALTHOUGH
SOME
ALCHEMISTS
CONJURE
WITH THE
FOUR
ELEMENTS,
OR WITH
THE THREE
PRINCIPLES
...

YEAH,
I
DO.

BIG
BROTHER...
DO YOU
THINK...
?







I'M
BUSY—
SEND
THEM
AWAY.

WHAT
?

IT'S A BOY
AND A MAN
IN A SUIT OF
ARMOR.
THEY SAY
THEY'RE THE
ELRIC
BROTHERS...

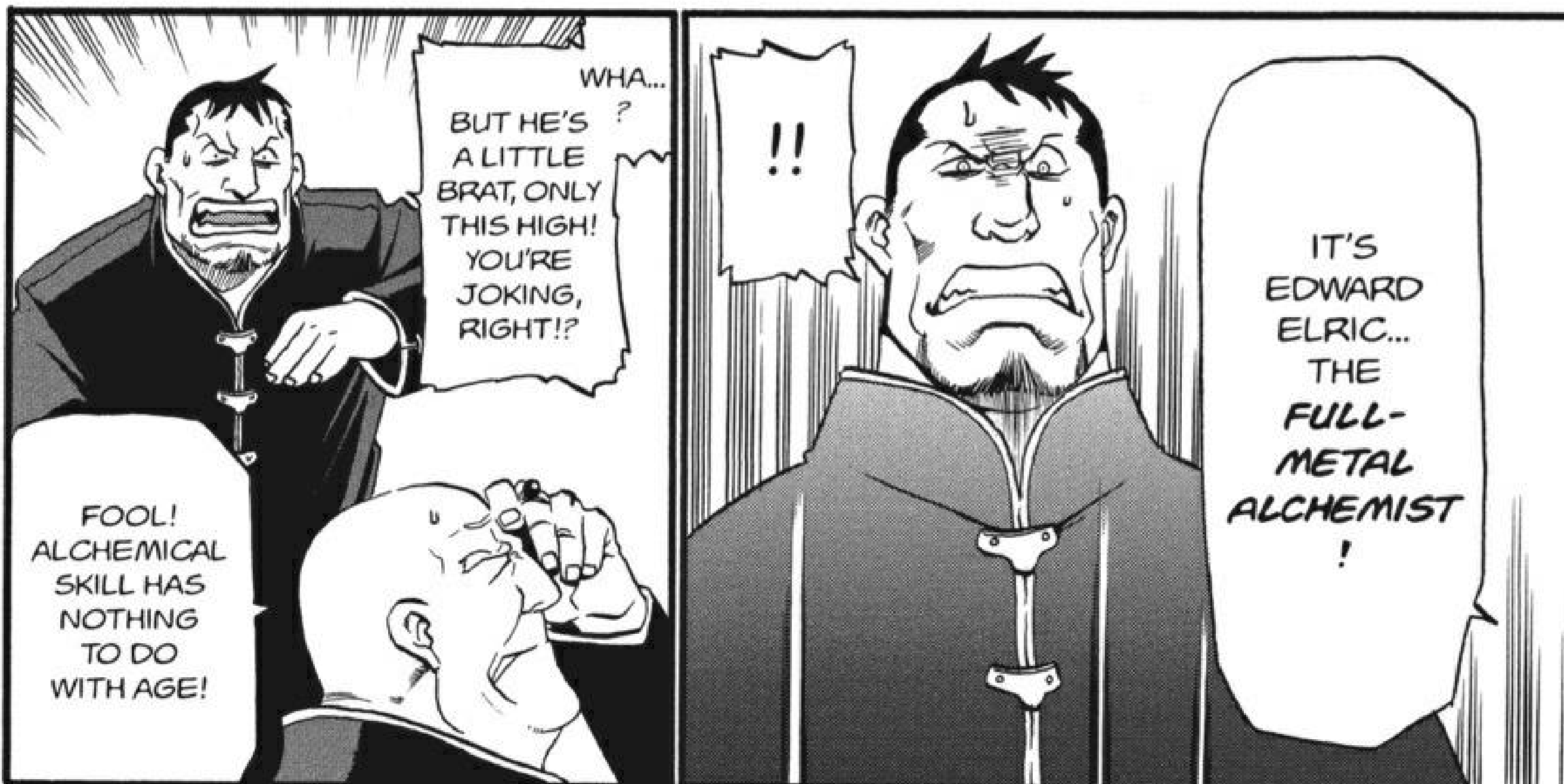


AAGGH...!
THIS
IS
BAD!

YES, IT
WAS THE
BOY WHO
CALLED
HIMSELF
THAT...
DO YOU
KNOW
HIM?

EDWARD
ELRIC
!?

WAIT,
HOLD
ON. THE
ELRIC
BROTHERS
?



WHA...
?

BUT HE'S
A LITTLE
BRAT, ONLY
THIS HIGH!
YOU'RE
JOKING,
RIGHT!?

FOOL!
ALCHEMICAL
SKILL HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH AGE!

!!

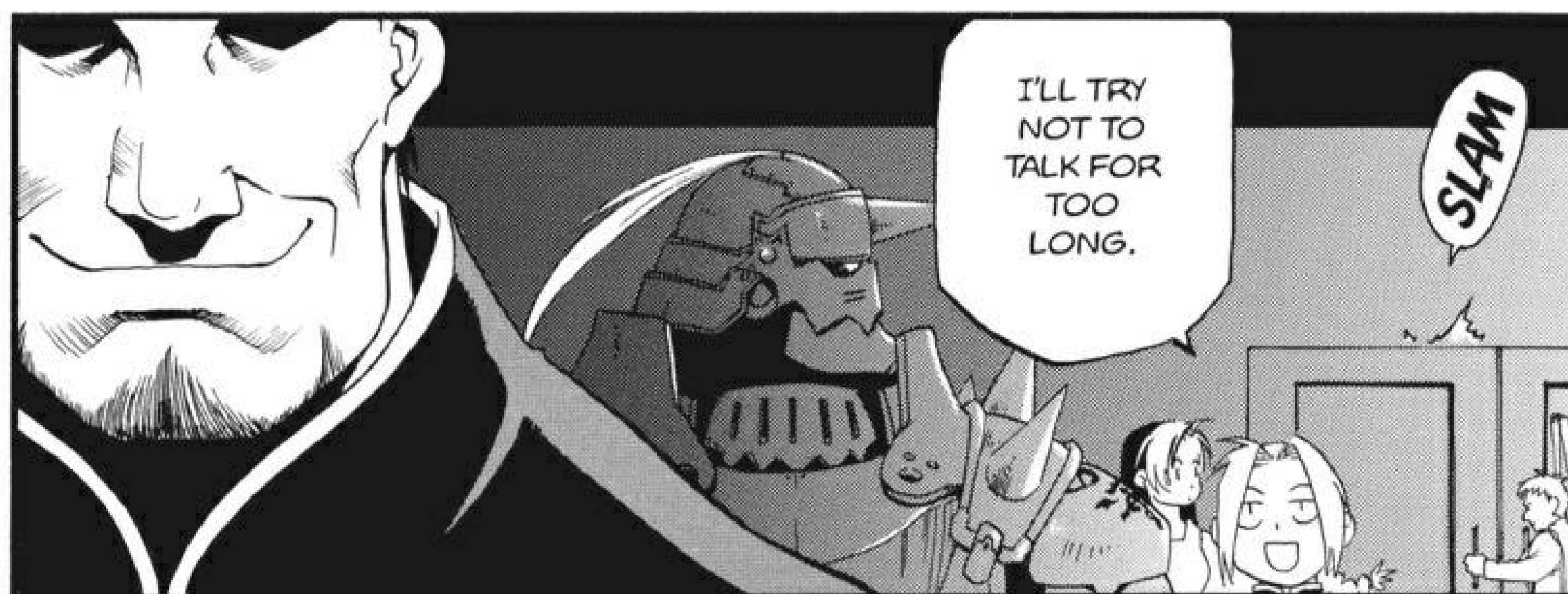
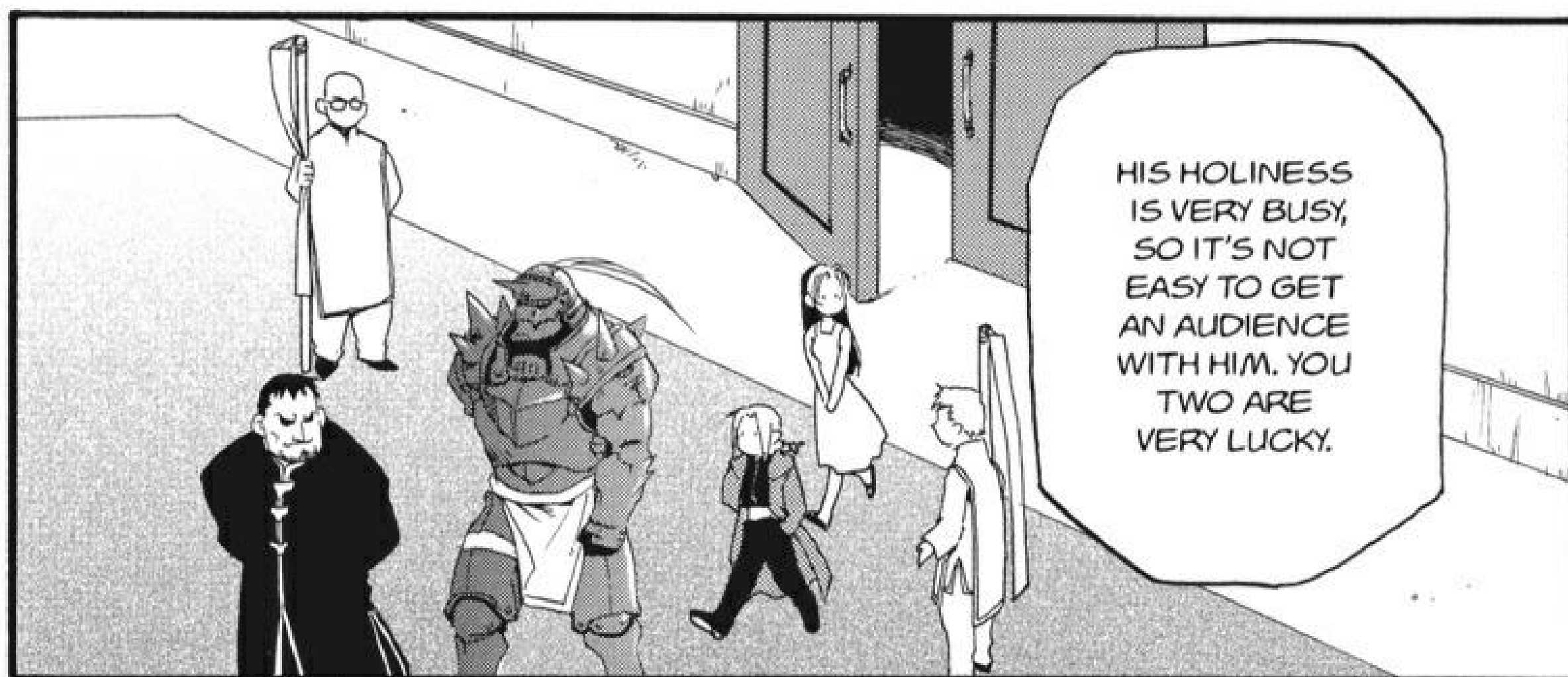
IT'S
EDWARD
ELRIC...
THE
**FULL-
METAL**
ALCHEMIST
!

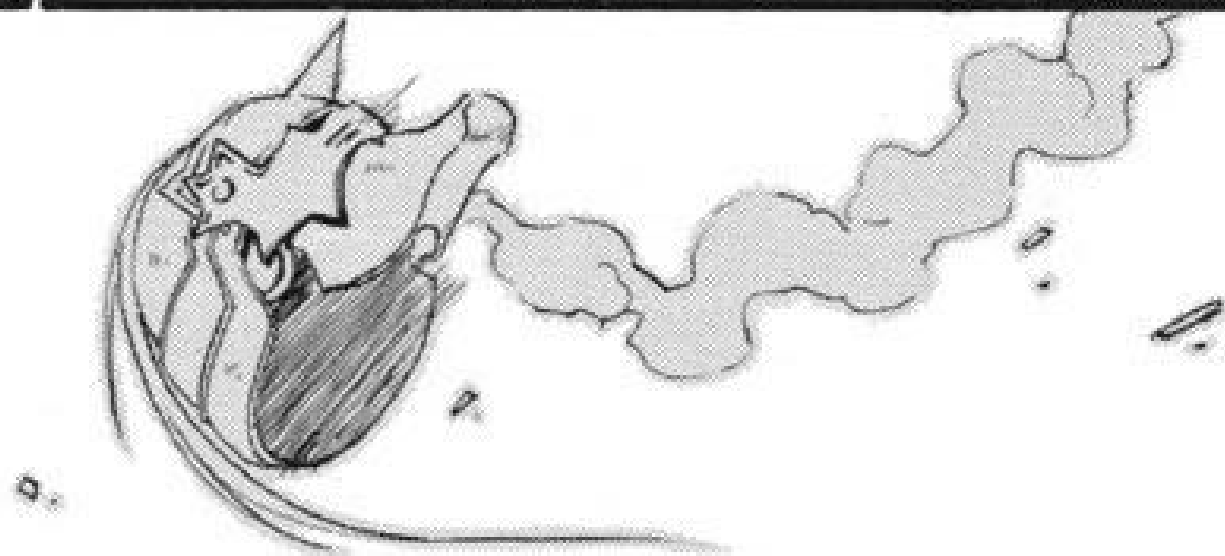


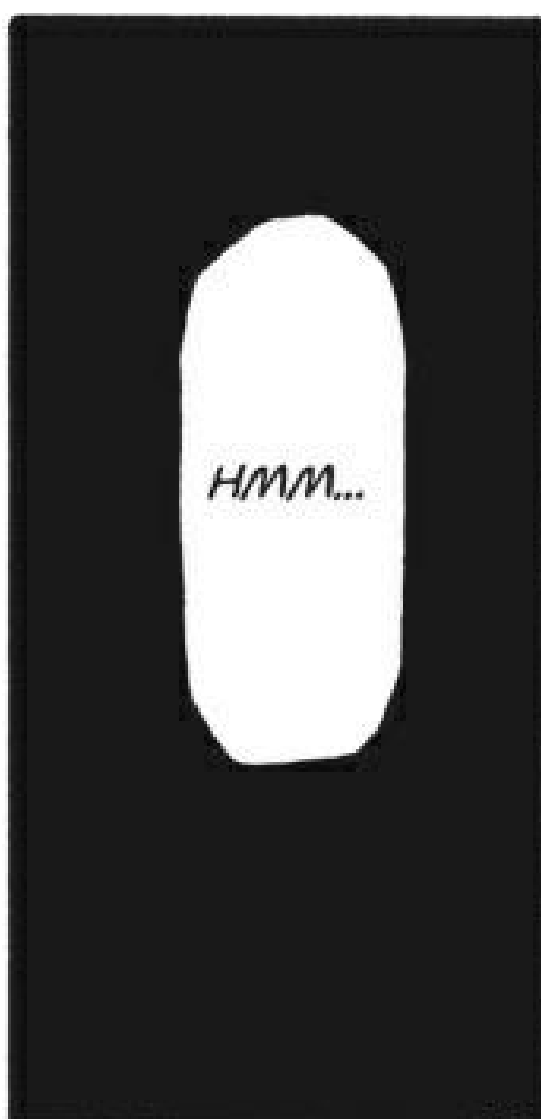
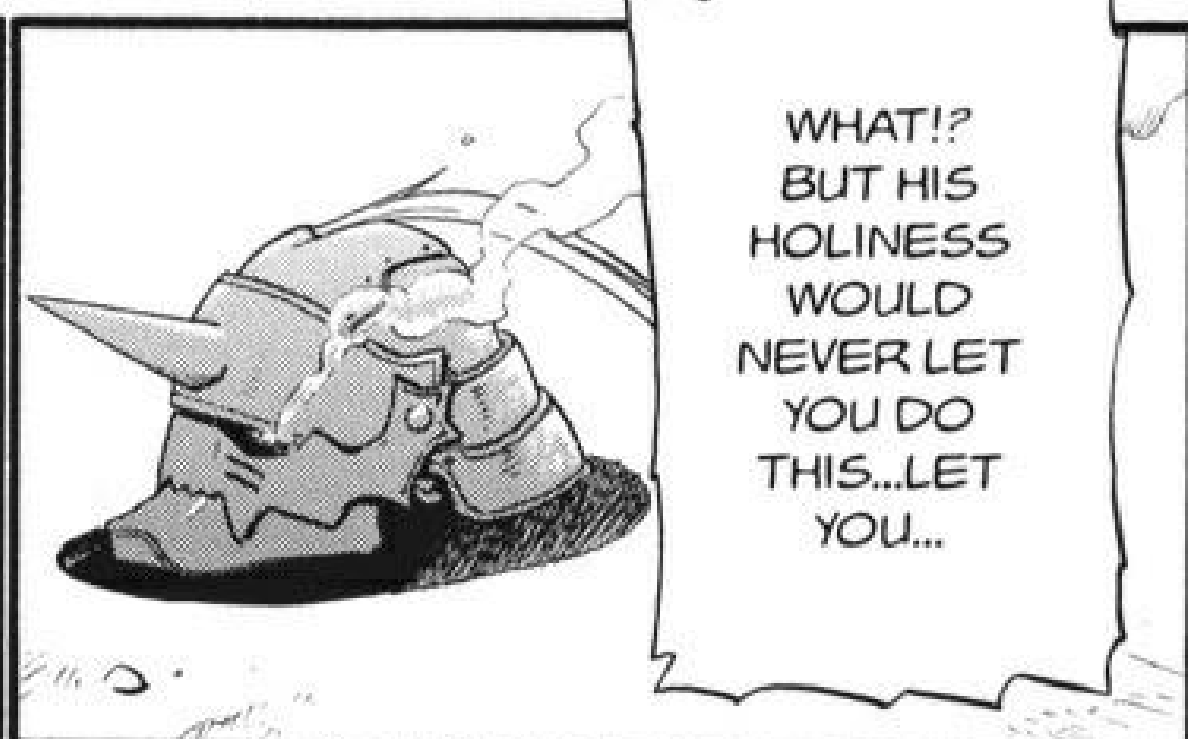
SO...THE
RUMORS
ABOUT THIS
BRAT WERE
REALLY
TRUE...

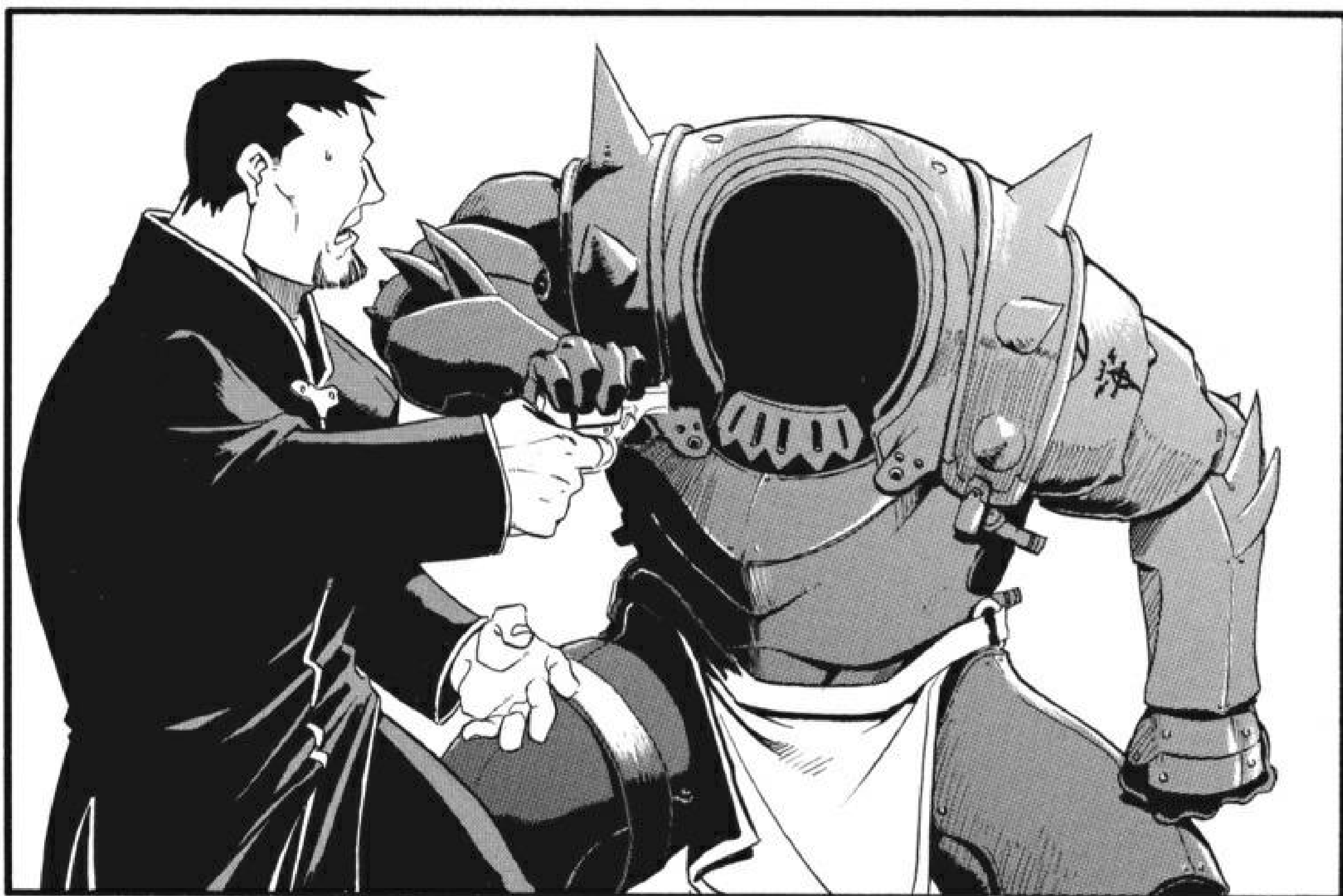
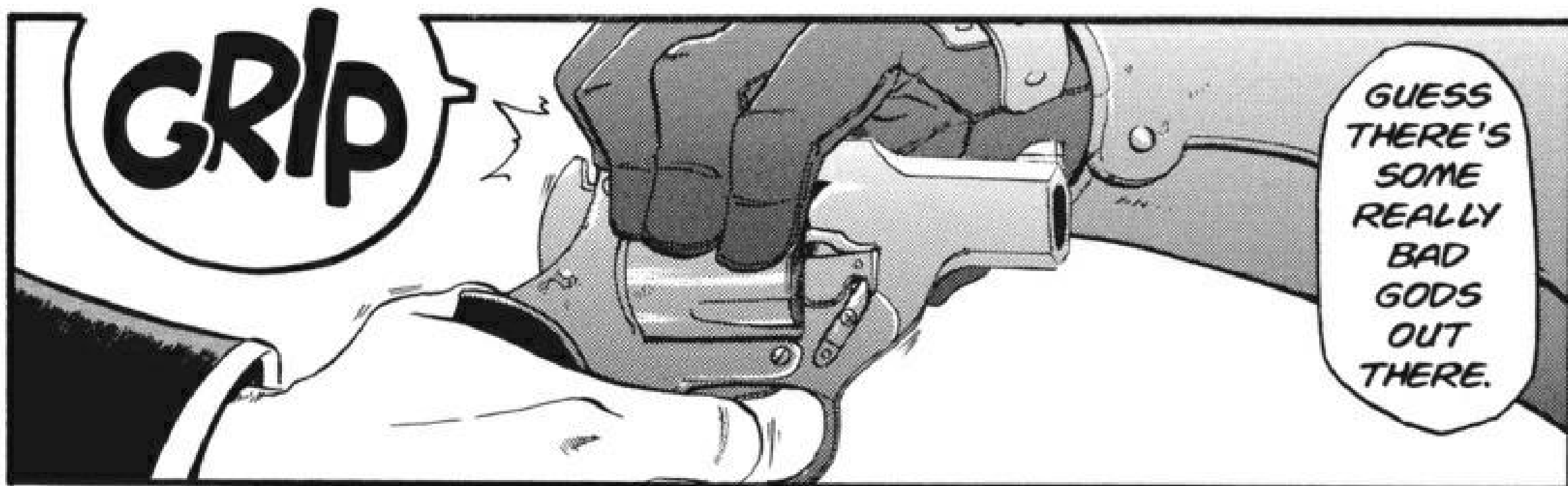
I HAD
HEARD THAT
HE OBTAINED
THE TITLE
OF STATE
ALCHEMIST
AT AGE 12 ...



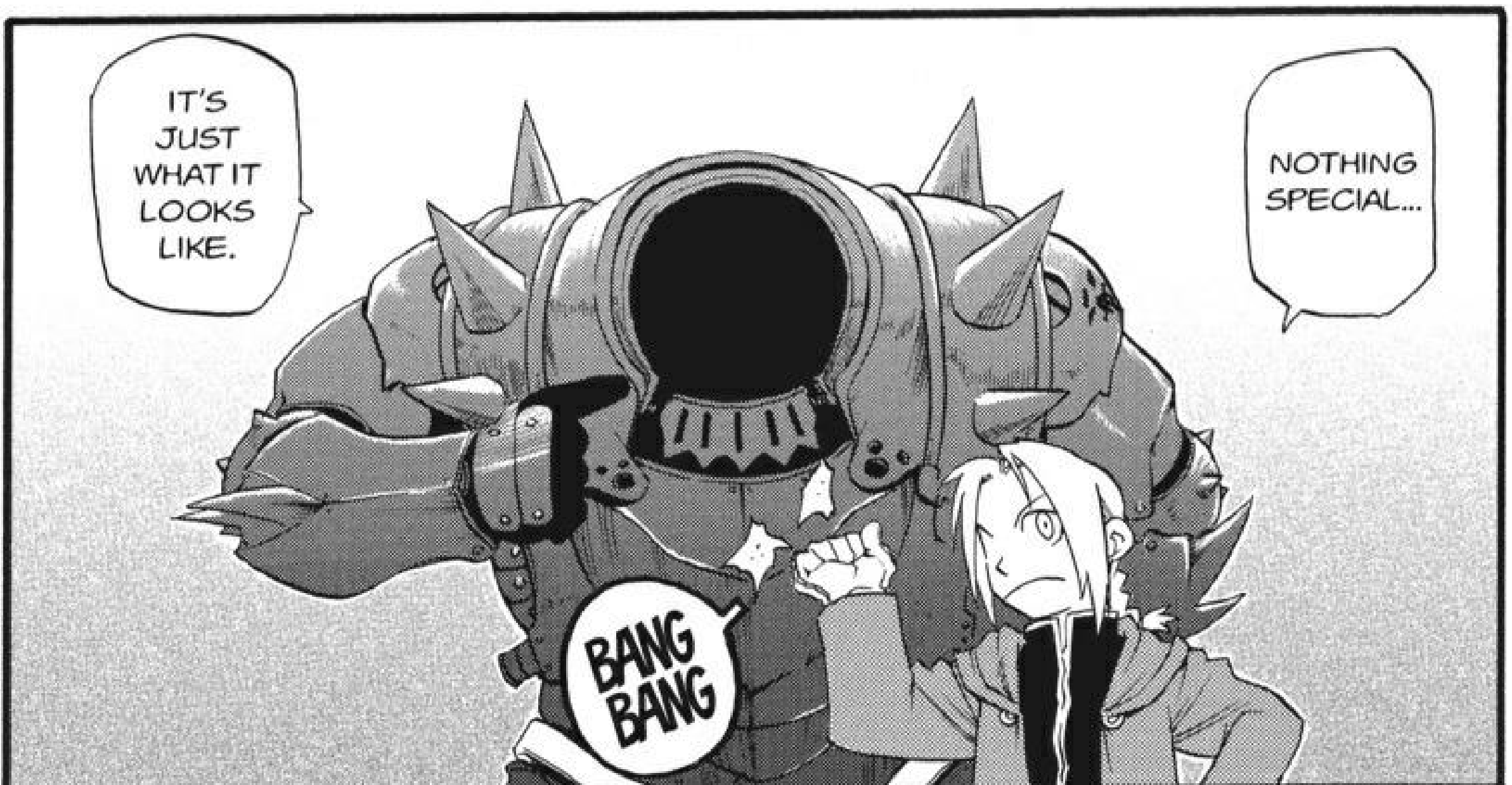


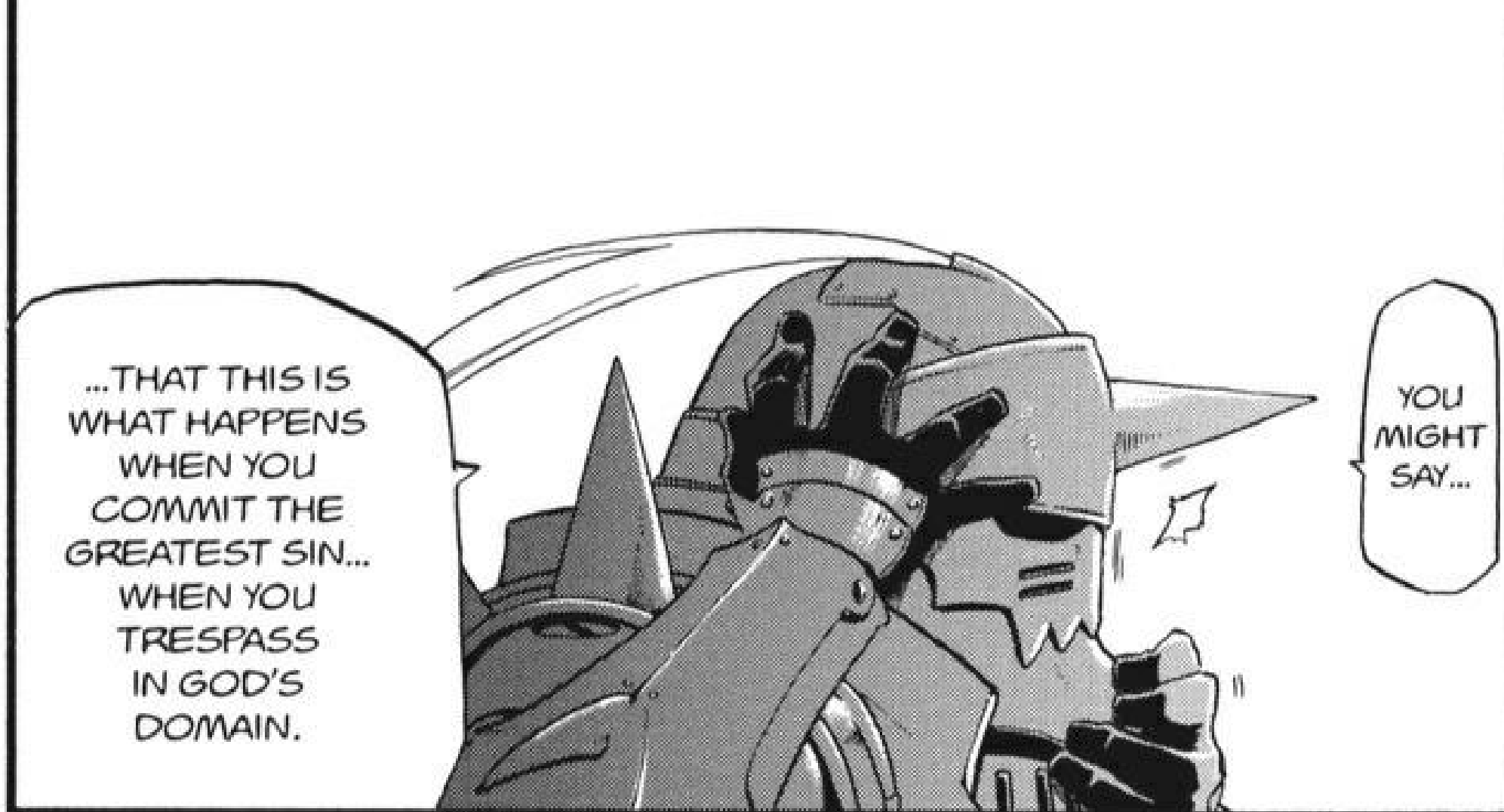


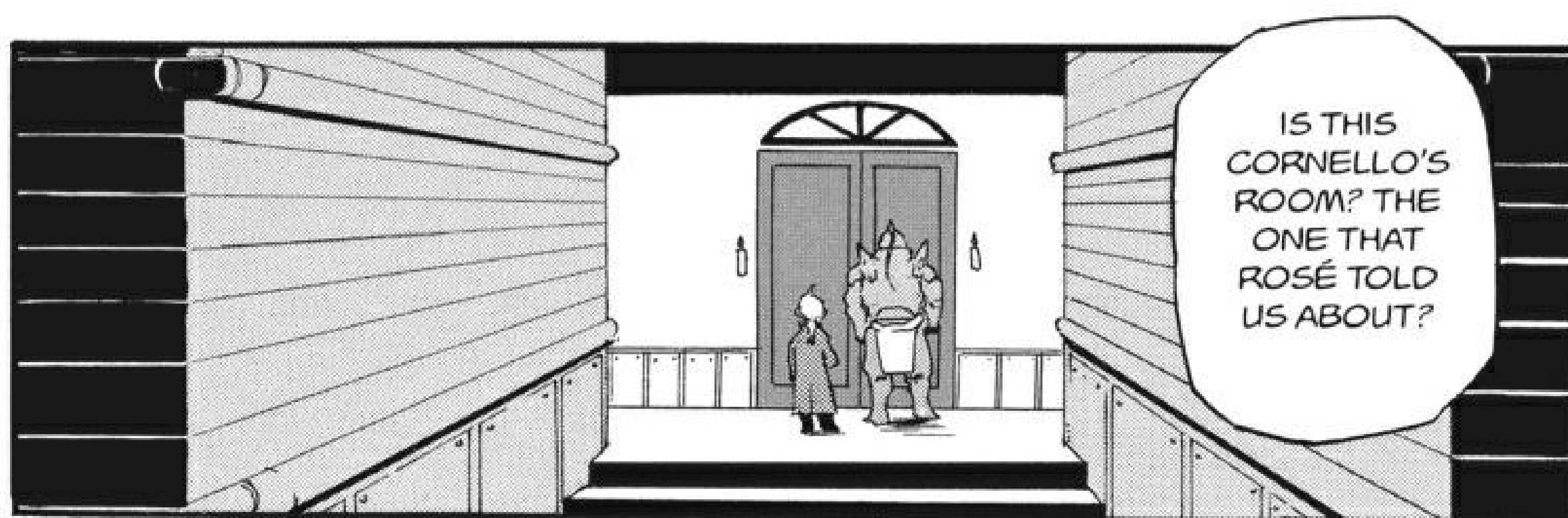
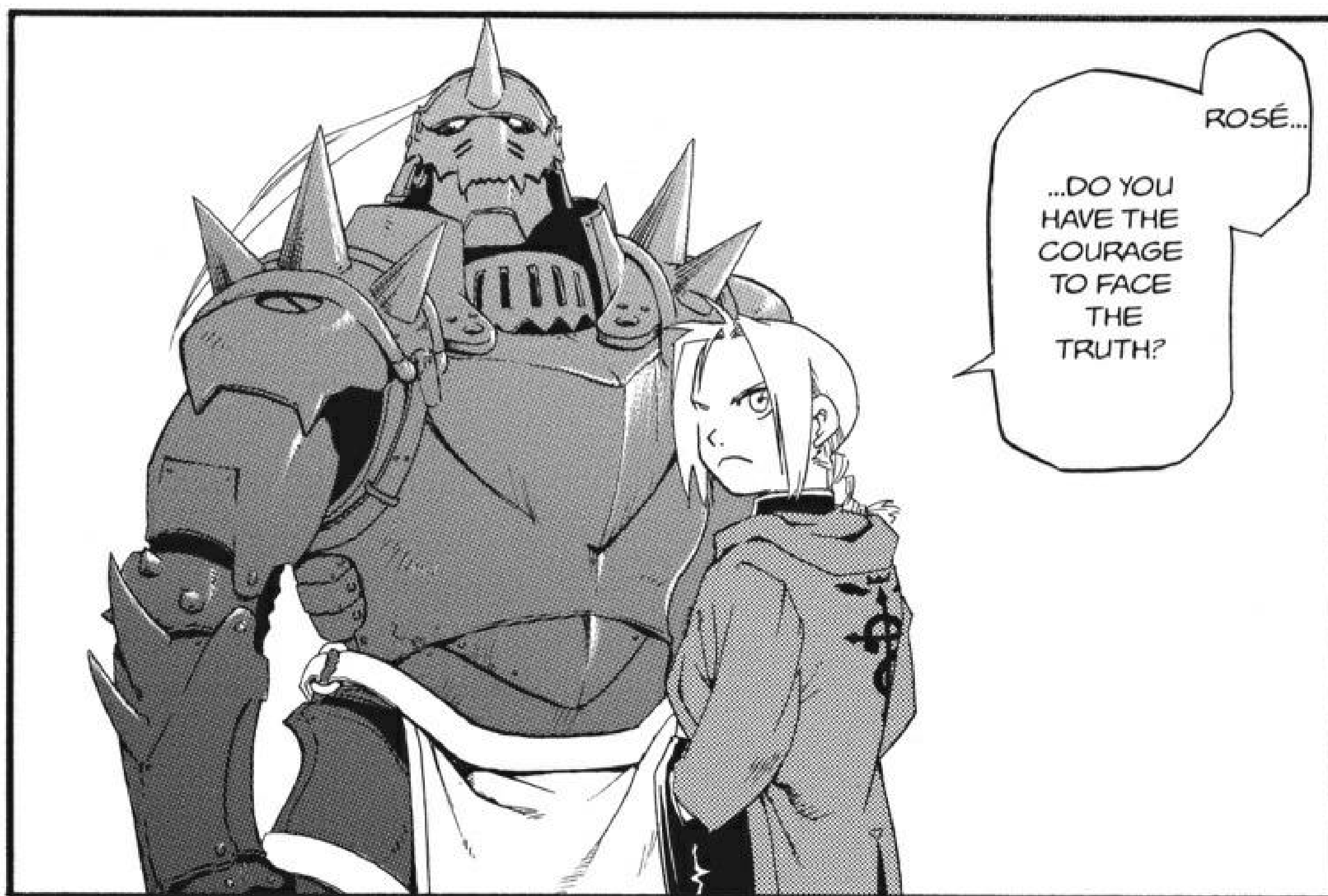


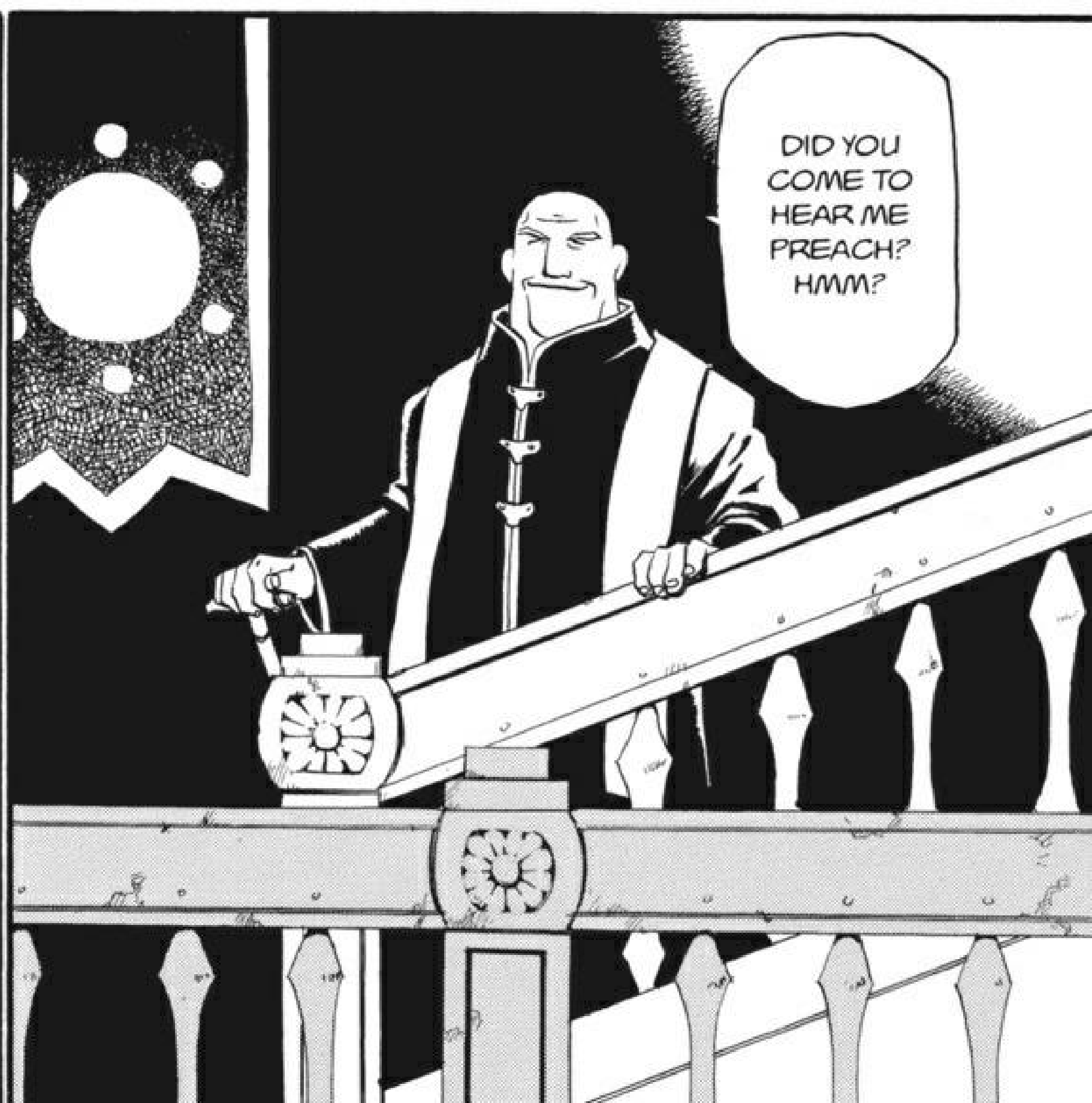
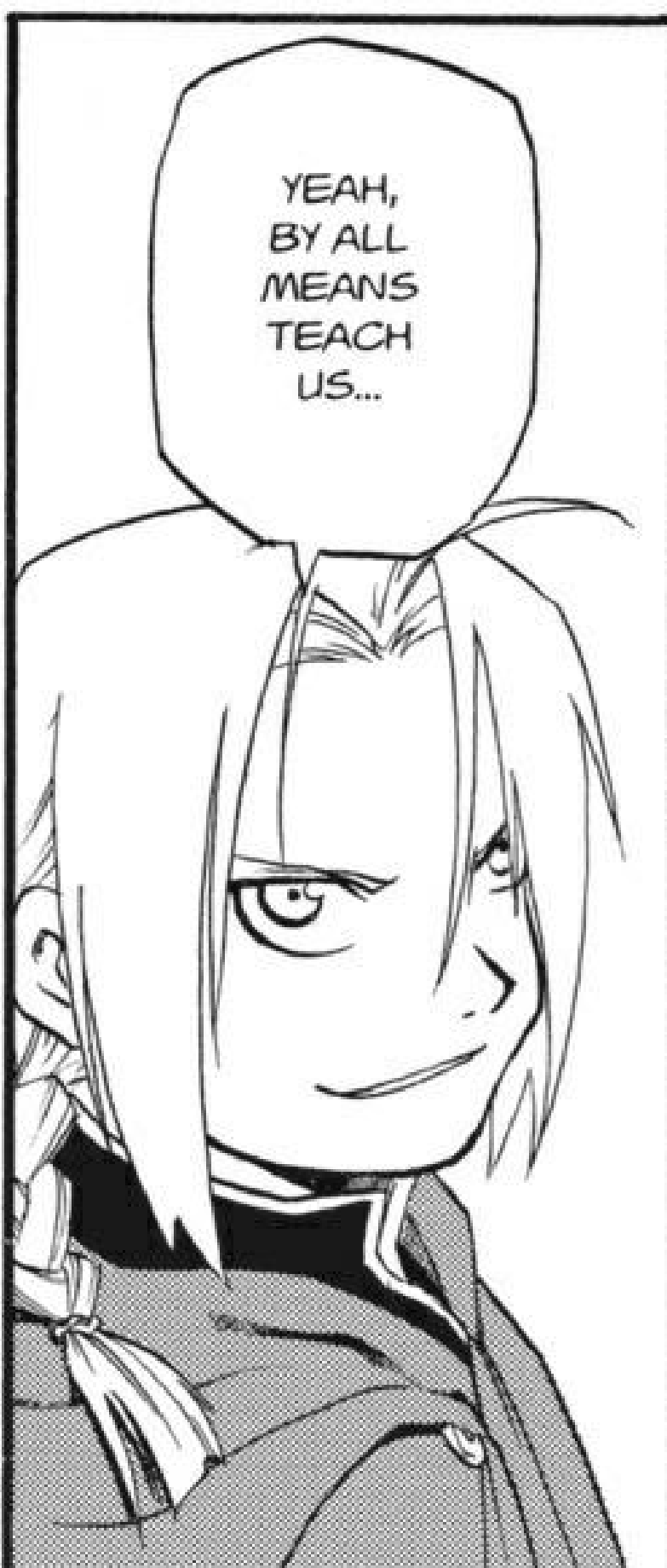
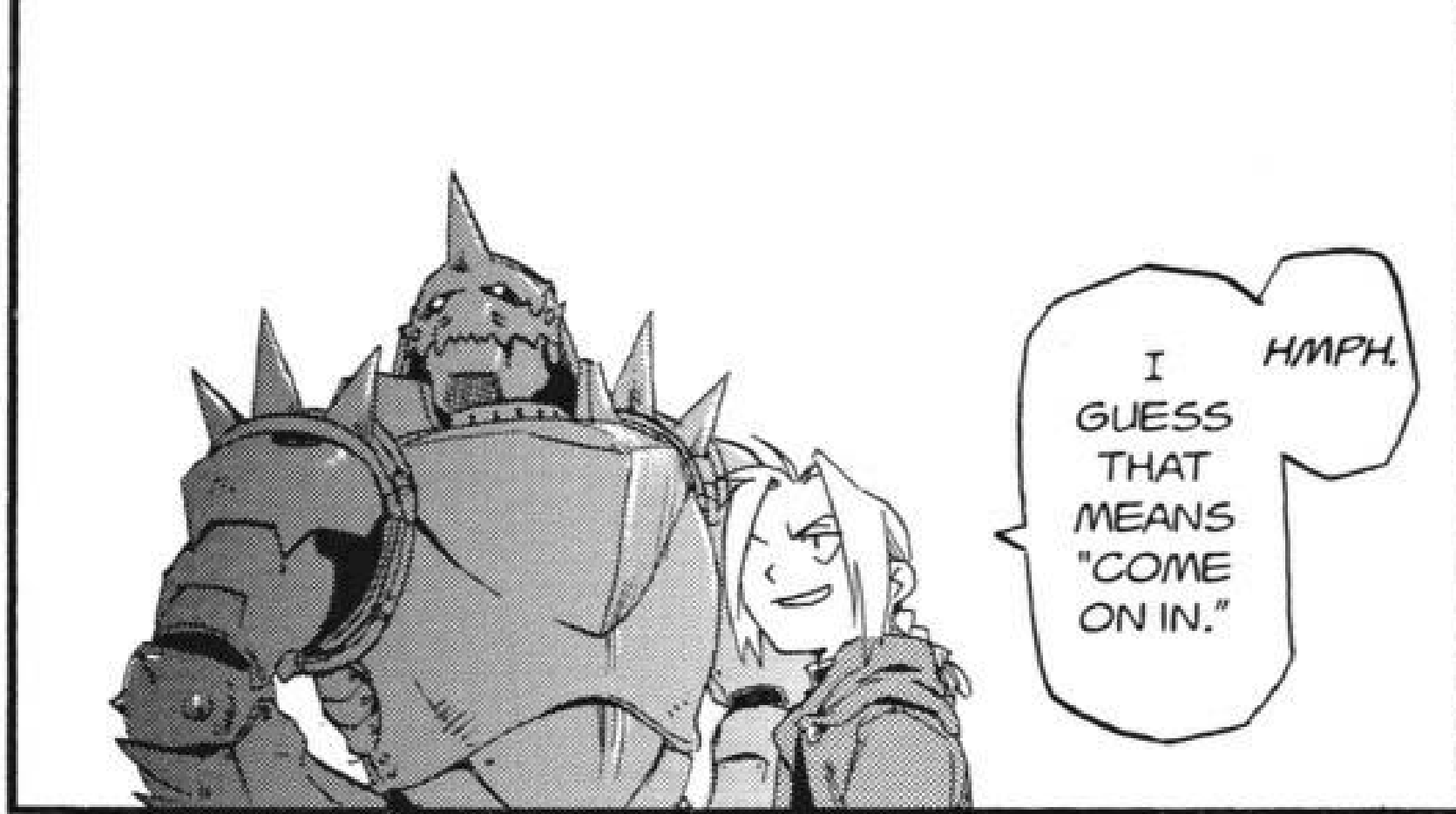












PLEASE
DON'T
CONFUSE
MY
MIRACLES
WITH
ALCHEMY.

WELL...
I'M
NOT
SURE
WHAT
YOU
MEAN.

THAT'S
WHY I'M
TELLING
YOU IT'S
NOT AL-
CHEMY...

AND
THEN IT
CAME TO
ME.

IF YOU
SAW FOR
YOURSELF
YOU'D
BE-
LIEVE...

YEAH,
I'VE
SEEN
IT ALL
RIGHT...

...AND WHAT
I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WAS HOW YOU'RE
ABLE TO DO
TRANSMUTATION
THAT GOES
AGAINST
THE LAWS.

...LIKE
ABOUT
HOW YOU
USE YOUR
LAME
ALCHEMY
TO DECEIVE
YOUR
FOLLOWERS
!

LIKE MAYBE...
JUST MAYBE...
IT'S THAT
RING?

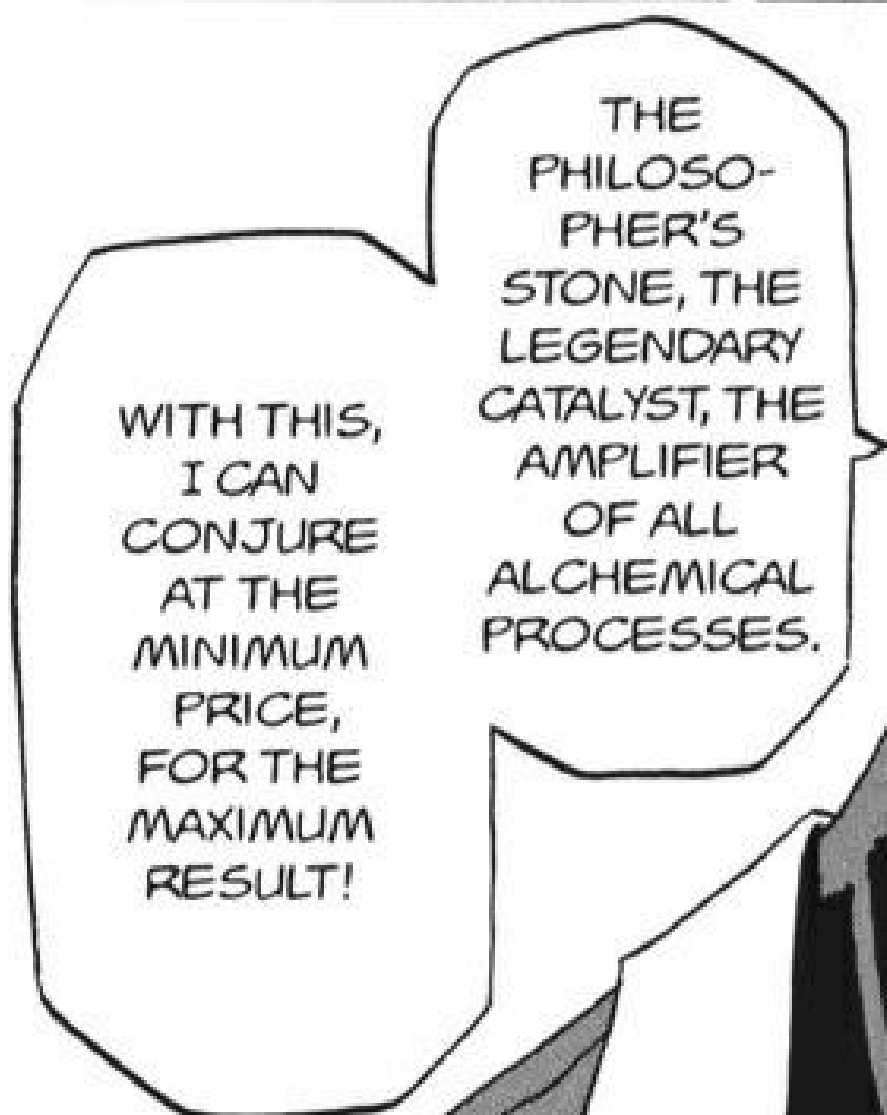
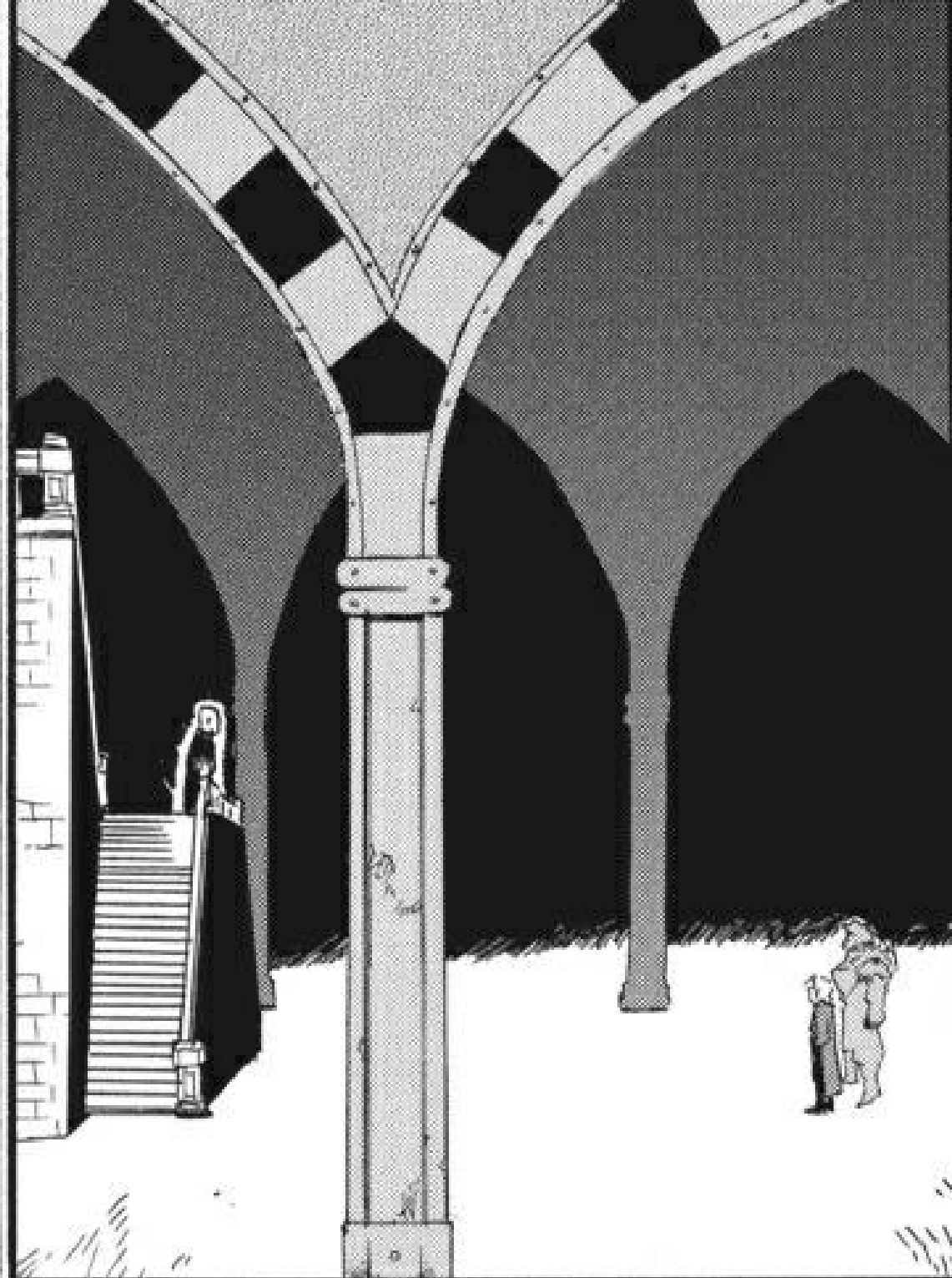
TWIK

THAT'S
HOW
YOU DO
IT,
RIGHT
?

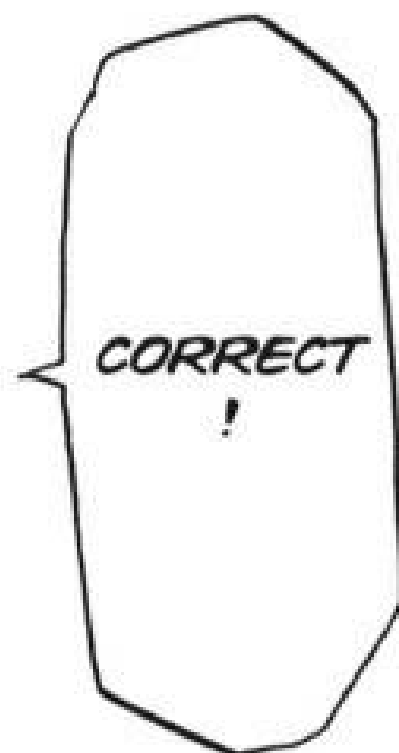
THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE.



HEH...THE GOVERNMENT GETS THEIR MONEY'S WORTH OUT OF YOU, DON'T THEY?



THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, THE LEGENDARY CATALYST, THE AMPLIFIER OF ALL ALCHEMICAL PROCESSES.





WHAT DO
YOU WANT
THE STONE
FOR?
MONEY?
HONOR?

HMPH!
WHAT'S THE
JEALOUS
LOOK IN
YOUR
EYES!?



WELL, I DO WANT
MONEY, BUT I CAN
GET THAT WITH
ALMOST NO EFFORT...
IN THE FORM OF
DONATIONS FROM
MY FLOCK.

IT'S
NOT
ABOUT
THE
MONEY.

IF IT'S
MONEY YOU
WANT YOU
CAN MAKE
AS MUCH AS
YOU WANT
WITH THE
STONE.

WHAT
ABOUT YOU?
WHAT DO YOU
GET OUT OF
FOUNDING
THIS PHONY
RELIGION?



JUST
WATCH!
WITHIN A
FEW YEARS
TIME THIS
ENTIRE
NATION
WILL BE
MINE!

SOON
I'LL
HAVE
MORE
THAN
ENOUGH
PEOPLE
!

HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA!



WHAT I
REALLY
NEED ARE
FOLLOWERS
WHO WILL
HAPPILY GIVE
THEIR LIVES
FOR ME.



THINK
ABOUT
IT! AN
INVINCIBLE
ARMY OF
FANATICS
WITH NO
FEAR OF
DEATH!





YOU'RE
RIGHT.
YOUR
FOLLOWERS
WOULD
NEVER
LISTEN
TO A
WORD I
SAY.



CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

THANKS
FOR
TELLING
ME
HOW
YOU
DO IT.

WOW...
YOU
ARE
SMART
!



BUT
WHAT
ABOUT
HER
WORDS
?



CLANG

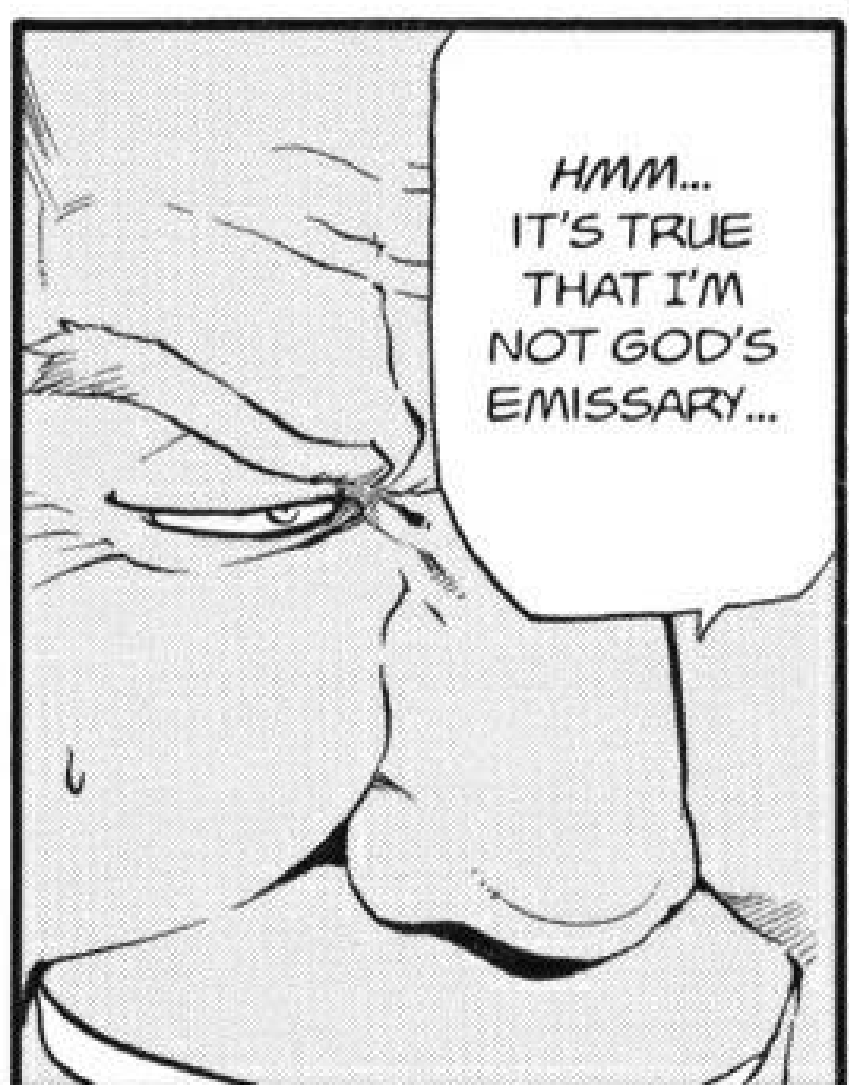


WHAT
IS THE
MEANING
OF
THIS...
?

R-
ROSE
!?



**YOU
CAN'T
BRING MY
DARLING
BACK
AGAIN
!?**



**HMM...
IT'S TRUE
THAT I'M
NOT GOD'S
EMISSARY...**





...BUT WITH THIS
STONE, IT MAY BE
POSSIBLE TO
TRANSMUTE
LIVING BEINGS,
WHICH SO
MANY ALCHEMISTS
HAVE TRIED
AND FAILED.



ROSÉ,
BE A
GOOD GIRL
AND COME
HERE.



ROSÉ,
DON'T
LISTEN
TO
HIM!



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
YOU
BELONG
WITH
US.



IF YOU
GO,
YOU CAN
NEVER
COME
BACK!



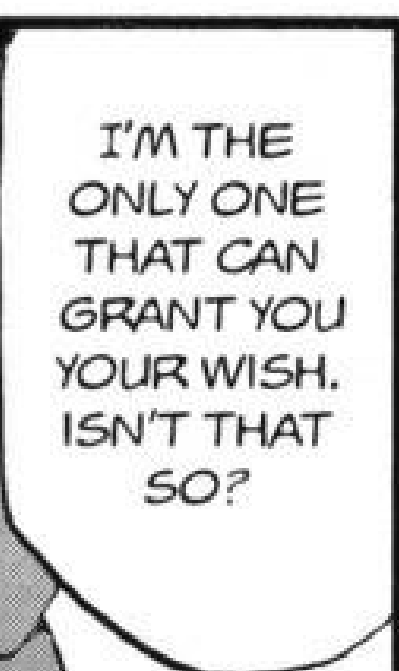
**ROSÉ,
I
WILL
RESURRECT
HIM
!**



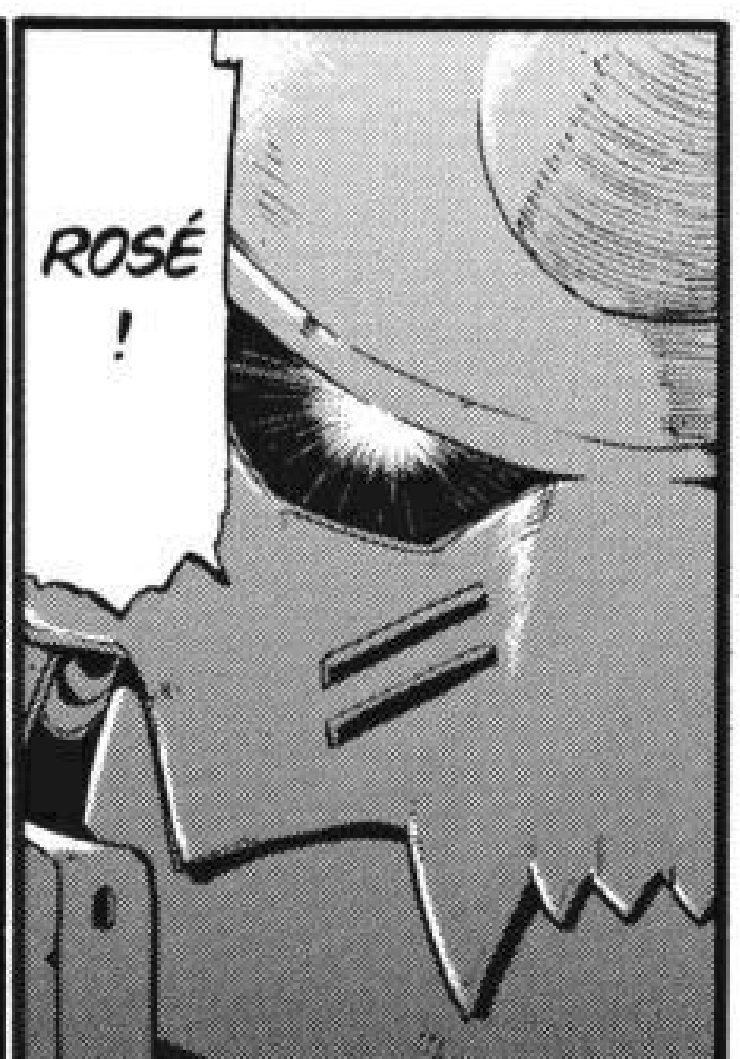
AND
COME
!



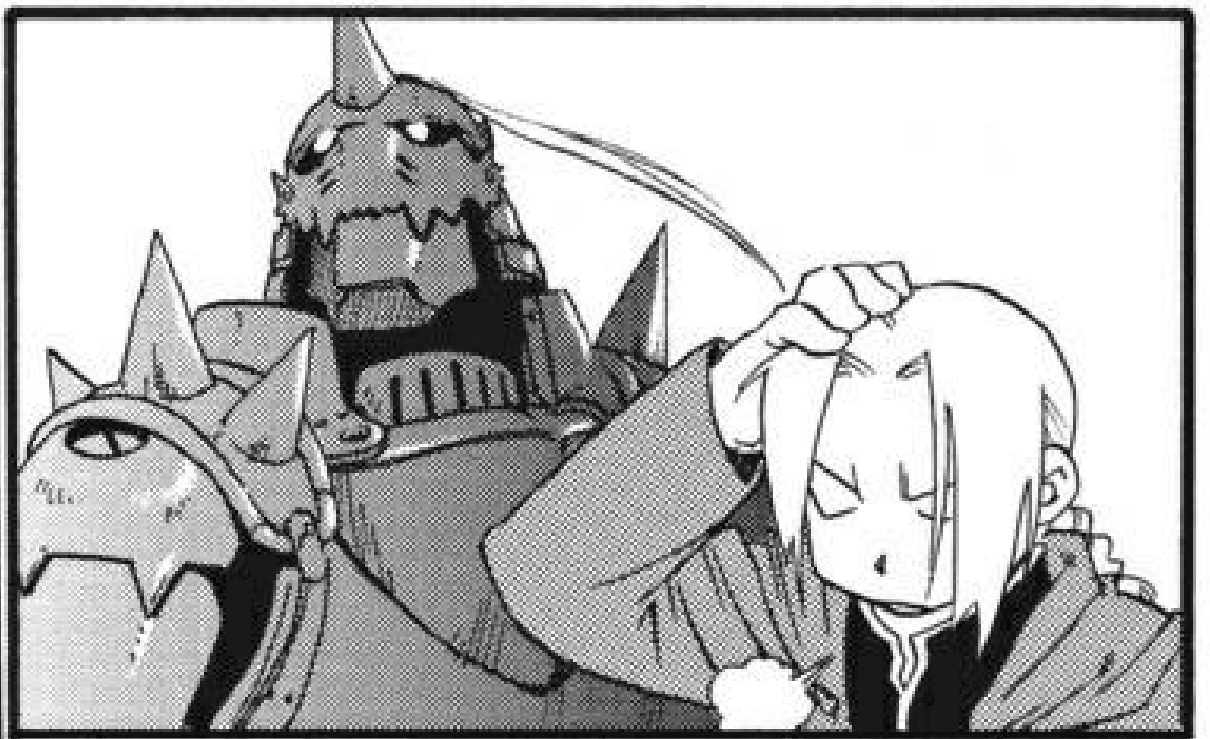
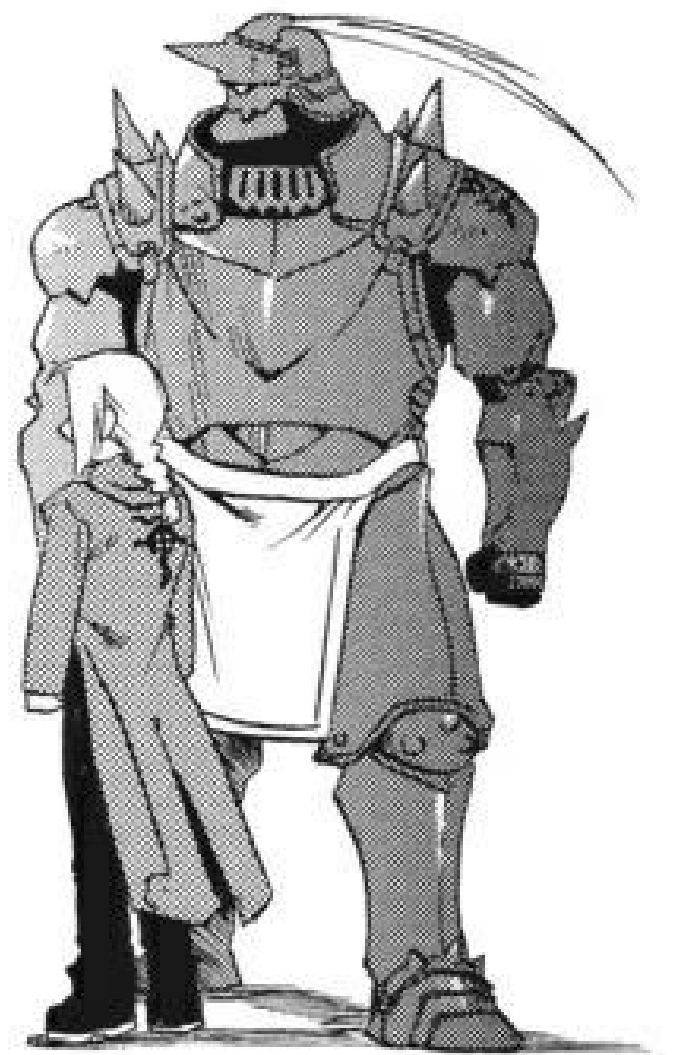
THINK
ABOUT
YOUR
DARLING.

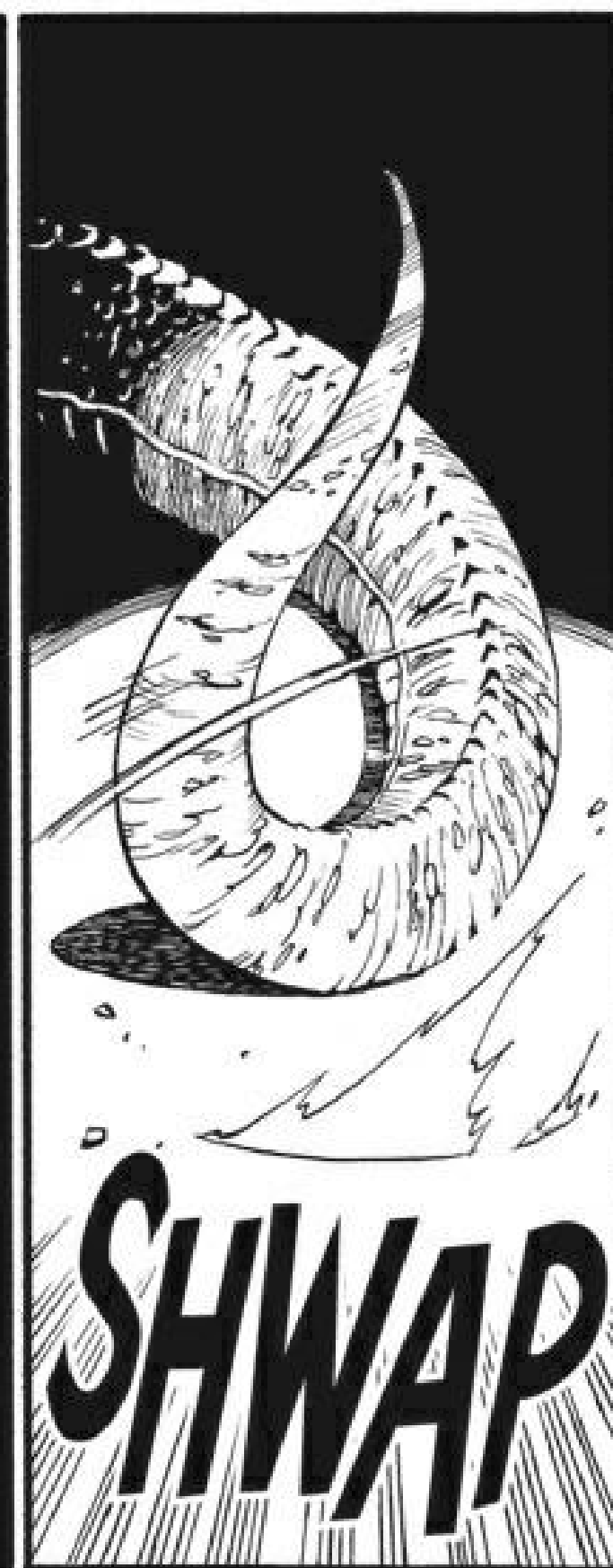


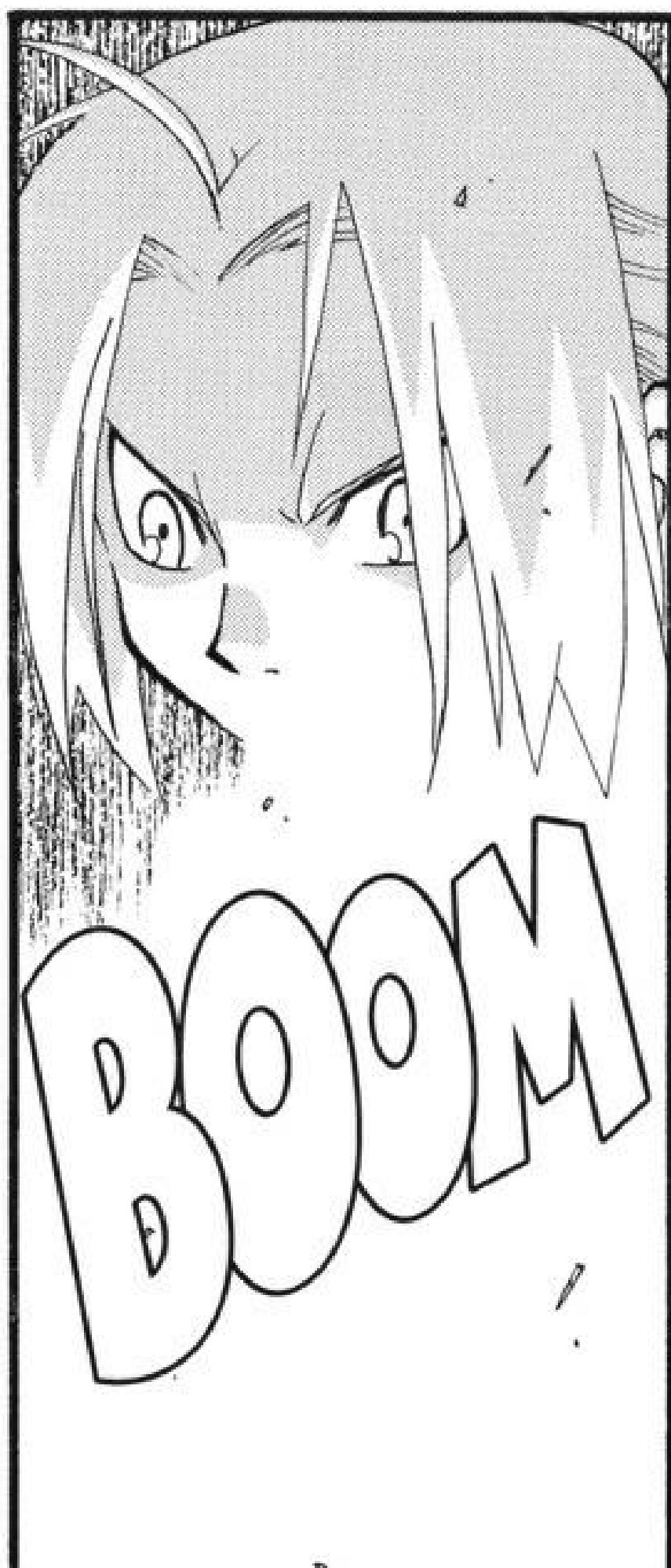
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
THAT CAN
GRANT YOU
YOUR WISH.
ISN'T THAT
SO?

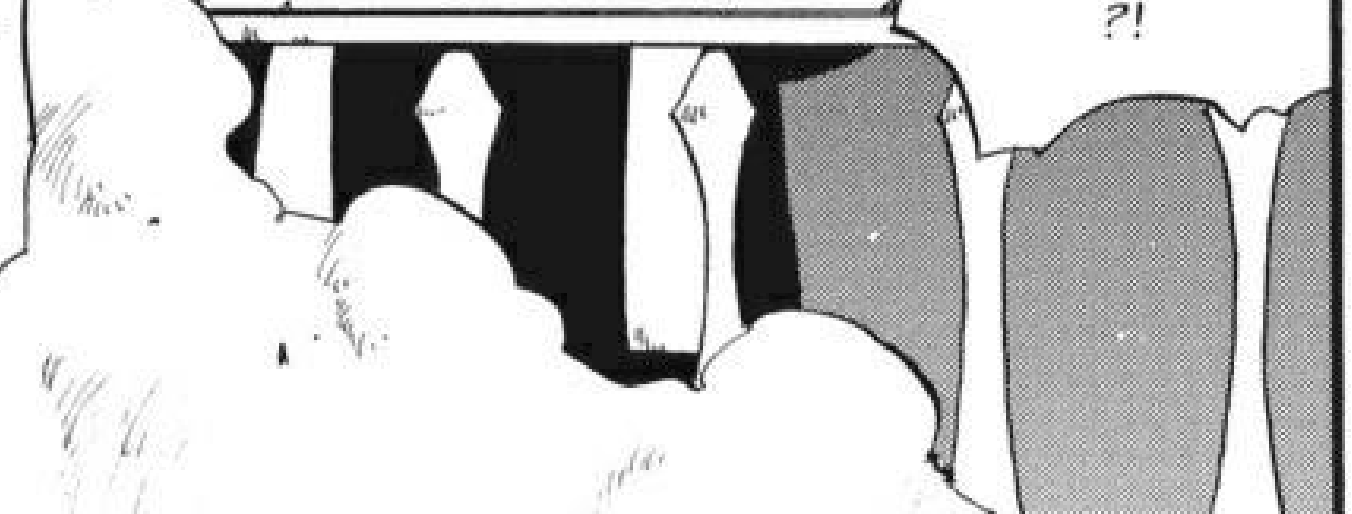
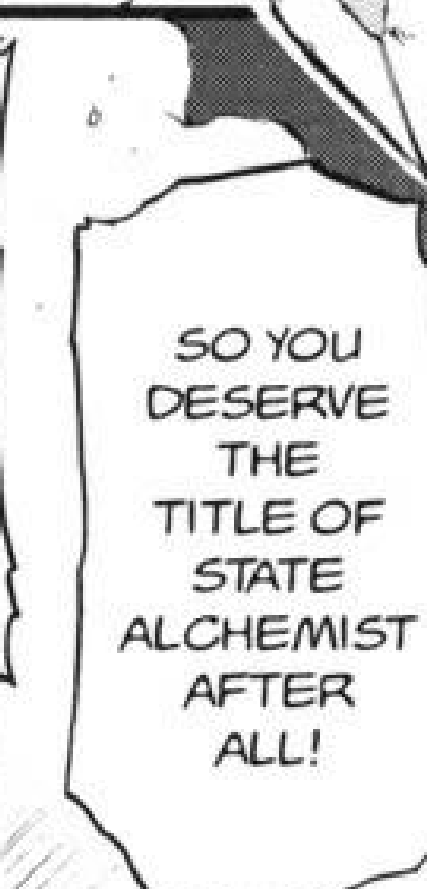
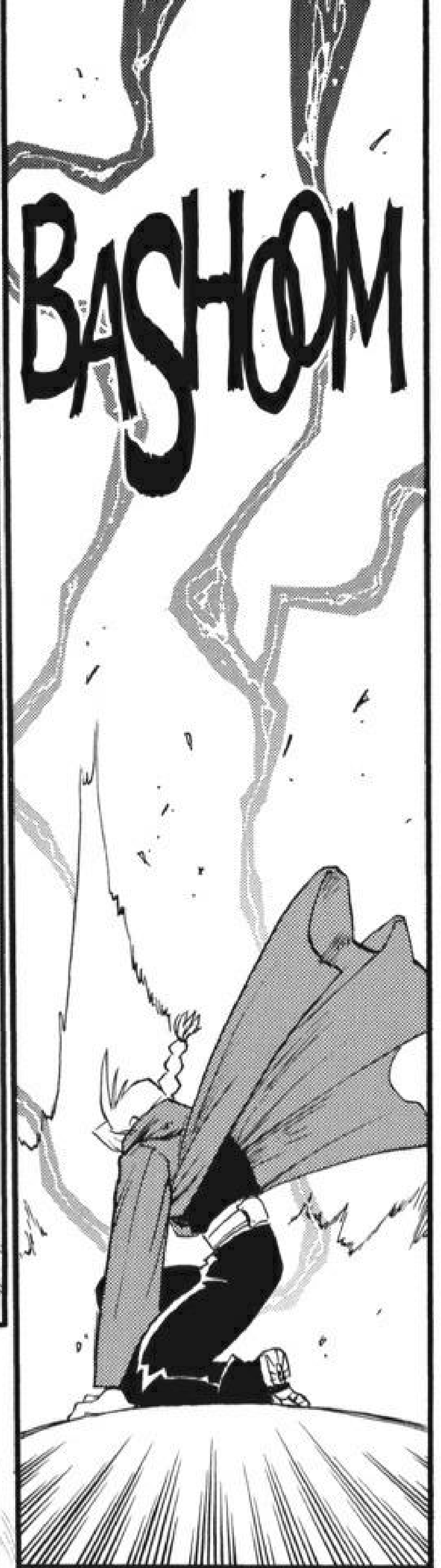


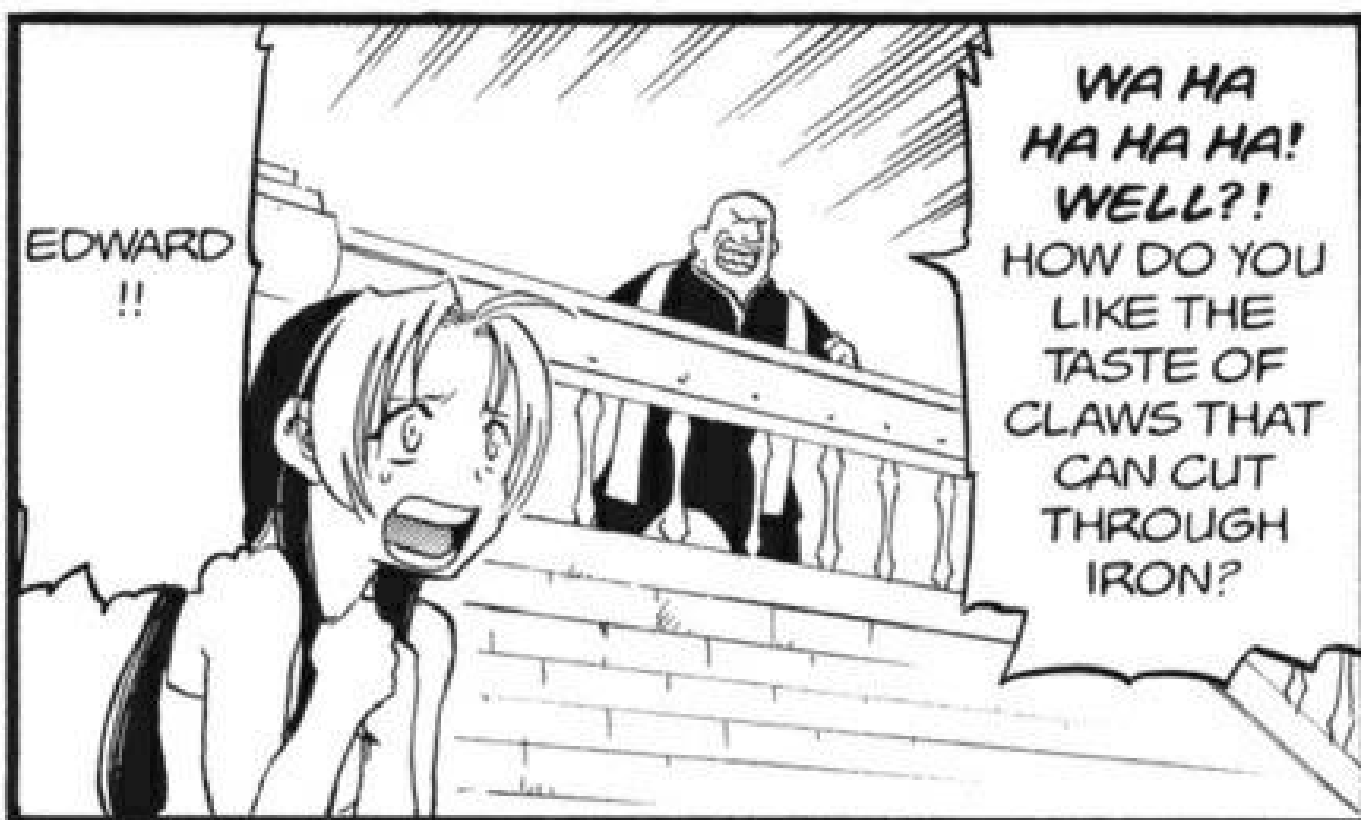
**ROSÉ
!**

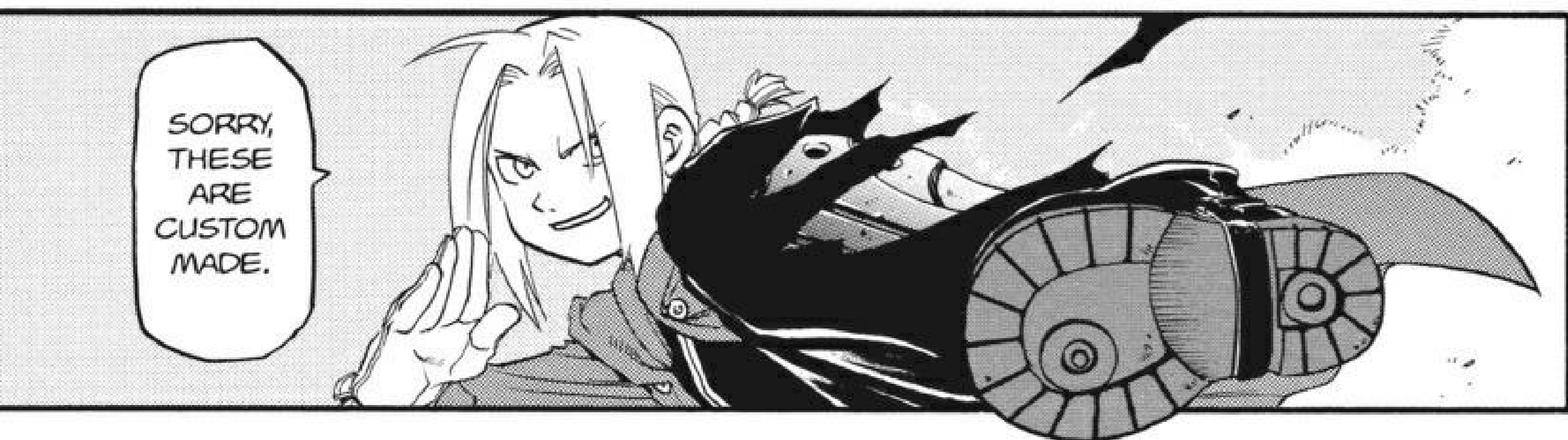




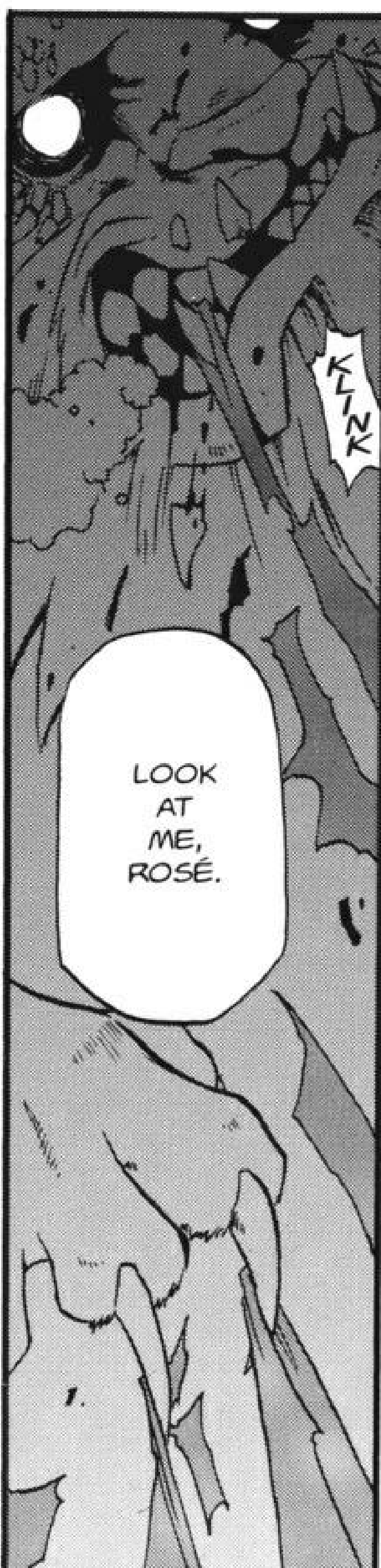
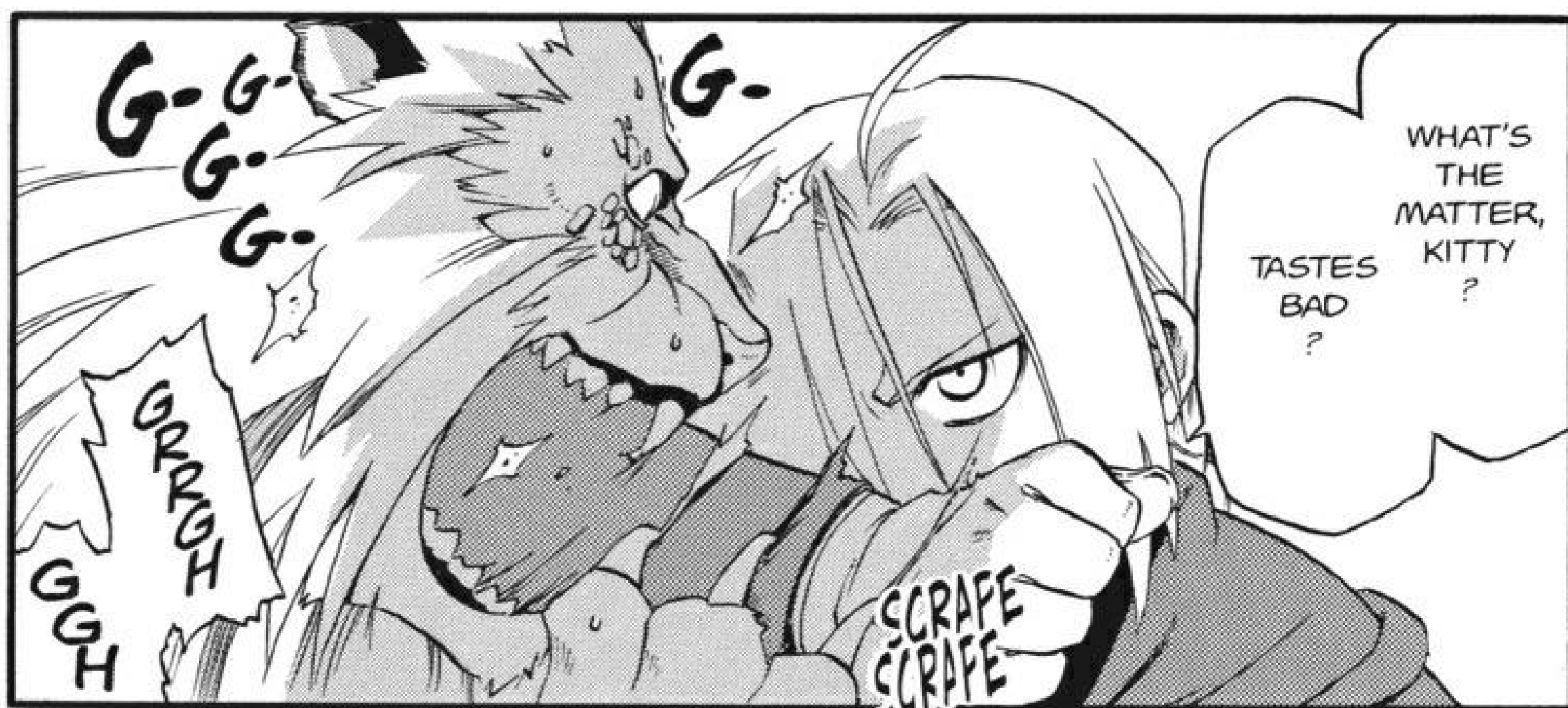






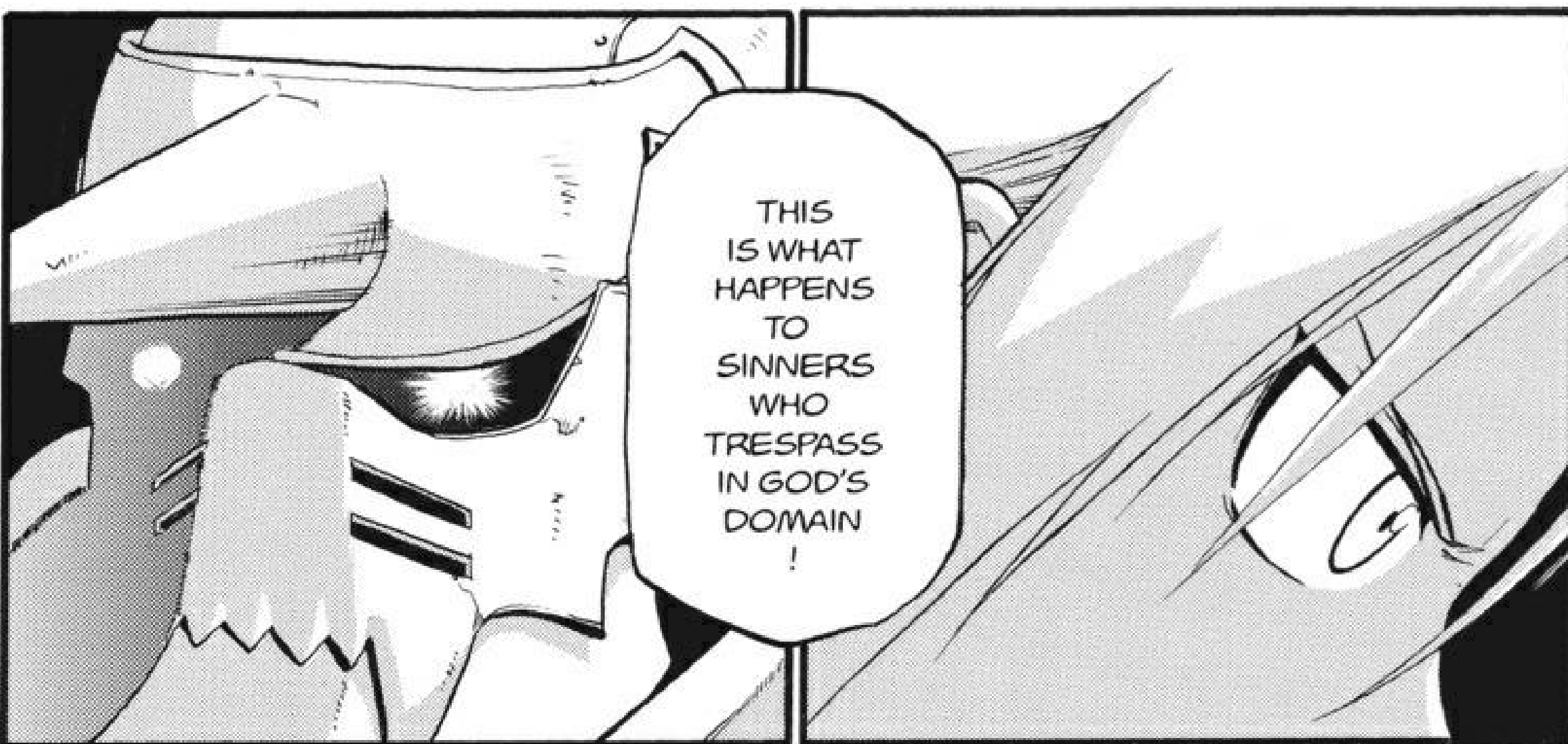




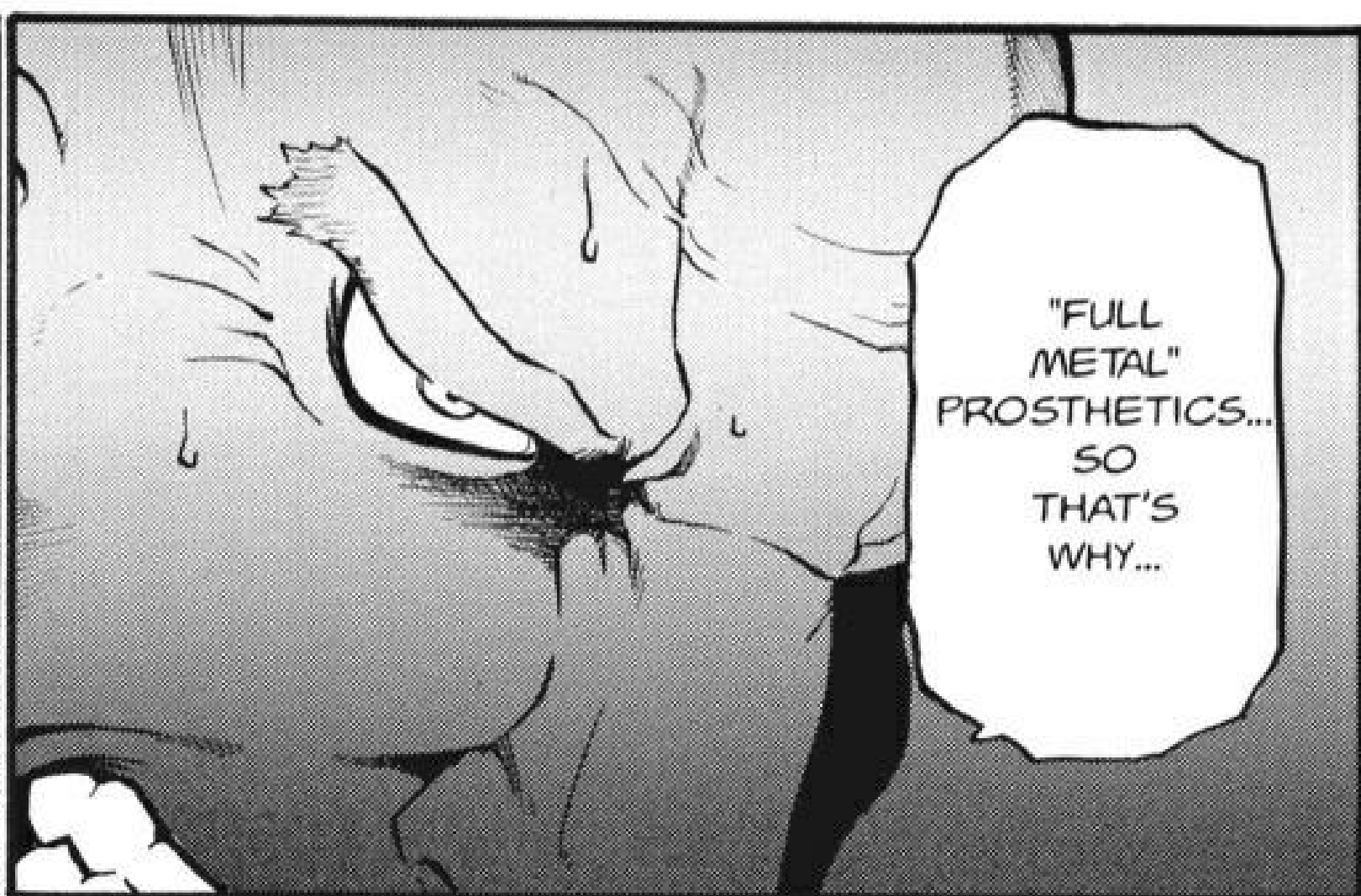




THIS
IS WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN
YOU USE
ALCHEMY
ON
HUMANS...



THIS
IS WHAT
HAPPENS
TO
SINNERS
WHO
TRESPASS
IN GOD'S
DOMAIN
!





COME
DOWN
HERE AND
FACE
ME, YOU
THIRD-
RATE
FRAUD.

I'LL
SHOW
YOU
THERE'S
NO
COMPARISON
BETWEEN
US!

...THE
FULL-
METAL
ALCHEMIST
!!



FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST